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TODAY
10p

Clash over IRA disarming

Blair presses Unionists to stay at talks

By MARTIN FLETCHER and JILL SHERMAN

A STRUGGLE to keep furious Ulster Unionists from abandoning peace talks following the renewal by the IRA of its 1994 ceasefire faced the Government last night.

Tony Blair will meet David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, today to press him to accept Sinn Féin's entry into all-party negotiations on terms that Mr Trimble and most other Unionist politicians have labelled unacceptable.

Mr Trimble is demanding a firm timetable for IRA disarmament from day one of the talks due to begin on September 15. Mr Blair will stick to his formula that decommissioning should take place "during" the talks.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, yesterday reiterated that the IRA would not surrender "a single bullet" before the negotiations were concluded, while Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, described the decommissioning question as a "judge" that allowed Sinn Féin rapid entry into all-party talks.

Mr Blair told *The Times* yesterday that Mr Blair had been "suckered into adopting the nationalist position" and suggested the Prime Minister



"Taylor" no talks with guns on the table

was "so deeply in hock to the IRA that he has left himself little room for manoeuvre".

Downing Street sources called those charges "ludicrous". Mr Trimble runs the risk of appearing an enemy of peace if he effectively ends the peace process by rejecting the British and Irish governments' joint document on decommissioning. At least six of his party's 10 MPs are said to be firmly opposed to that joint document.

John Taylor, the deputy leader, said the UUP would not talk to a party which "demands the right to keep a gun at the table".

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the rival Democratic Unionist Party, pledged to foment a popular revolt in Northern Ireland if the UUP accepted the document. "They would be betraying the Unionist community," he said.

Other events over the weekend fuelled Unionist suspicions that the IRA ceasefire was merely a ploy to gain Sinn Féin admittance to the peace talks. A report in the Dublin-based *Sunday Tribune* — angrily denied by Gerry Adams — claimed the IRA leadership planned to end the ceasefire after just four months unless the talks produced political benefits.

Speaking less than two hours after the ceasefire took effect, the Sinn Féin president condemned the reports as "disgraceful" and "totally irresponsible" and said they were "grist to the mill of those who don't want change".

The ceasefire itself was implemented with minimal fanfare at noon yesterday, though in Roman Catholic and Protestant churches throughout the province prayers were said for peace. Mr Adams called it a "momentous day" and urged politicians of all parties to "rise to the occasion that is before us and lead the people of this island into a new and peaceful future".

The ceasefire means a delegation of Sinn Féin officials will today be able to enter Stormont Castle buildings, the venue of the current multi-party talks, and meet participants including British ministers and George Mitchell, the former US senator, who is to chair the full-scale negotiations this autumn.

Wary scepticism, page 2
Letters, page 21



Jemima and Imran Khan arriving with their son at Sir James Goldsmith's Richmond mansion to join the rest of the family in mourning

Final European journey for Sir James

By STAFF REPORTERS

THE remains of the late Sir James Goldsmith, the most European of Europeans, made a final journey across the Continent yesterday from Spain, where he died, over France, where he was born, and on to Britain.

His ashes were flown back to London as his extended family gathered at Richmond, southwest London, in one of the billionaire businessman's many mansions.

The posthumous pilgrimage was wholly appropriate for a man who defended Britain's national identity in

ringing Old Etonian tones, but who managed at the same time to be a quintessentially cosmopolitan European.

Sir James, 64, died of a heart attack on Saturday, after a four-year battle against pancreatic cancer. He was cremated in secret at 11 am yesterday in the Spanish resort of Marbella, watched by his wife, Lady Annabel, one of his sons, his personal doctor and a crematorium employee.

A hearse had brought the coffin 15 miles from Sir James's mountain retreat at Torre de Tramores, where he had died a few hours after arriving from Burgundy

and cremation. The death certificate read 00.05 hours on Saturday, so the cremation took place at almost the earliest possible moment.

The family brought with them to Spain a beautifully sculpted wooden urn with Sir James's name and the date of his death engraved on the side. The tycoon's remains are now most likely to be scattered in the Pacific, in front of Sir James's vast Mexican estate.

Members of Sir James's family returned to London yesterday, arriving at the Richmond mansion in a convoy of three limousines. Lady Annabel was in the first car,

accompanied by her daughter Jemima, who shared the back seat with her husband Imran Khan, cradling the couple's baby son. Sir James's youngest son Benjamin, aged 16, followed in a second car. The third was unoccupied.

As the family gathered, it was announced that Lord McAlpine, the former Tory treasurer and deputy chairman, would succeed Sir James as leader of the Referendum Movement. He will also remain as chairman.

Millions shared, page 4
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New doubts over NatWest

The independent future of National Westminster Bank has been cast into further doubt by the failure of merger talks with the Prudential insurance group.

NatWest had already failed to negotiate a merger with Abbey National and a return to the bargaining table with Prudential appears unlikely. Speculators are now likely to come to the conclusion that Lord Alexander of Weedon, NatWest's chairman, has abandoned an independent strategy.

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'People's Lottery' will get power to punish Camelot

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will today outline a radical shake-up of the National Lottery, including new powers to penalise Camelot, the operator of the twice-weekly draw.

A new advisory panel will also be appointed to choose a successor when Camelot's licence expires in 2001.

A White Paper on the "People's Lottery" to be launched by Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Sport and Media, will include strict financial conditions on the operator and will give Oflot new powers to impose substantial fines for poor performance or breach of contract.

In a sign that Labour may be shifting on its manifesto commitment for a non-profit making operator, the document will include a series of options to define "non profit".

These are expected to allow Camelot's successor to keep enough of the lottery draw to cover expenses, salaries and some allowances. The varying options will allow different

margins of generosity, to be agreed before legislation in December.

The document will include strict financial conditions on the operator and will give Oflot, the regulator, new powers to impose substantial fines for poor performance or breach of contract.

In a Commons statement

today, Mr Smith will also detail plans to channel money into projects involving people rather than capital projects. There has been concern that lottery money has gone on items such as the Churchill Papers rather than to more worthy public causes.

Mr Smith will announce a £1 billion New Opportunities Fund for lottery money for health and education and the environment. Critics have already claimed that the new fund — which comes from the midweek lottery draw — might affect other lottery projects, including proposals outside London to celebrate the millennium. But Mr Smith has insisted that developments that have already been given the go-ahead will not be axed.

Mr Smith has now toned down his antagonism towards Camelot after the recent controversy on bonuses and is quite happy for the organisation to submit a bid to retain the lottery contract.

"I see the loss of a loved one... it looks like your job"

Woman is killed on birthday balloon trip

By PAUL WILKINSON

A GRANDMOTHER was killed during a 75th-birthday ride in a hot-air balloon yesterday when the balloon crashed into a high-voltage power line and plunged 30ft to the ground in flames.

Audrey Jones, of Hestle, Lancashire, died instantly and her son and granddaughter were among a number of people injured as the basket crashed into a mushroom farm at North Ferry on the northern bank of the River Humber. One of the 15 people on board spoke of "absolute panic" as the fire took hold.

Bob Wilkinson, who runs the farm, said: "People just dropped to the ground, some with their hair on fire, some with their clothes on fire. One person was completely engulfed in flames."

The balloon got into difficulties almost immediately after taking off from the grounds of Hestlewood Hall, half a mile from the Humber bridge. Witnesses reported the pilot frantically trying to gain height, using his propane gas

burner to force more hot air into the giant blue and white canopy which bore a BT logo. It drifted out over the river and passed beneath the main span of the bridge. At one point it touched the water and grounded on a mudflat. Then it took off again before striking the 33,000-volt powerlines.

The lines severed the cables connecting the gondola to the balloon and the gas supply from the pressurized cylinders to the burner. A spark ignited the gas enveloping the gondola in flames.

Four of the group were seriously hurt, including the pilot, who was badly burned. He was later taken to a specialist burns unit 40 miles away at Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Mrs Jones's granddaughter Beth, aged eight, was said to be comfortable in Hull Royal Infirmary last night, while her father, Stephen Jones, was "stable" in another ward at the hospital.

Balloon disaster, page 3

Euthanasia doctors accused of executing patients

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE British Medical Association has urged the police to launch murder investigations after two doctors admitted that they often helped patients to die.

Dr Michael Irwin, a former United Nations medical director who is chairman of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said that throughout his 40-year career he had often used what he called the "double effect" to hasten the death of suffering patients. This meant

he administered lethal overdoses of painkillers which relieved their agony and then killed them.

He said: "Because these individuals repeatedly expressed a wish to die earlier than might have been expected and they were supported by their families, the intention of my actions was to end their lives and not only to ease their suffering."

He added that he had recently been using a £20 "customised edit bag". He gives them a lethal dose of Temazepam, puts them in the large bag and seals it.

He added: "I expect to be questioned by police after this statement and am prepared to end up in court if need be. But as I will never reveal who these patients were, I do not believe I can be convicted. My conscience is clear."

Dr David Moor, a Newcastle GP, said he had also used the "double effect" technique many times over the past 30 years on patients in pain, anguish and distress. He injected them only after a full discussion with the relatives.

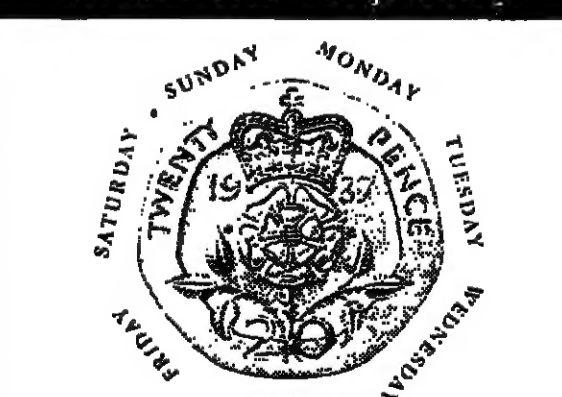
Their actions were applauded by Sir Ludovic Kennedy, president of the

euthanasia society, but Dr Stuart Horner, chairman of the BMA's medical ethics committee, said: "I call this execution. I think the General Medical Council and the police would be failing in their duty if they did not look into these allegations."

The BMA voted overwhelmingly at its annual conference two weeks ago against euthanasia or doctor assisted suicide.

Sussex Police and the Crown Prosecution Service each said that they were unaware of any investigation into Dr Irwin.

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GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

First baby is 'saved' by Catholic initiative

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl has given birth to the first baby "saved" by the Catholic Church in Scotland under a controversial scheme to give financial aid to pregnant mothers considering abortion.

The scheme, launched in March in an emotional speech at an anti-abortion conference by Cardinal Thomas Winning, leader of Scotland's 750,000 Catholics, was widely condemned at the time by feminists and criticised as naive by some in the social services and medical professions.

Since then women have been contacting the Cardinal's special helpline at the rate of two a day and more than 200 pregnant women have been in touch with the anti-abortion wing of the Church in the last few months. More than £140,000 has been received in donations.

The first baby "saved" by the scheme is believed to have been born to a 15-year-old girl who contacted the Cardinal's office soon after he made his speech. She is believed to have been under pressure from her family to abort the baby but did not want to.

The Church is said to have given her baby clothes, equipment and a donation of several hundred pounds as well as emotional support and counselling. The premature baby and the mother are both said to be doing well.

Yesterday Father Noel Barry, the Cardinal's press secretary, said he could not give details of individual cases because the Church respected the woman's confidentiality but he said Cardinal Winning was pleased with the response to his initiative.

"On average we have received two calls a day from women since the Cardinal made his speech. I would like to think it is an initiative which is saving lives and will continue to do so. It is impossible to generalise, every case is different but for most women

the problem is not financial. They are under huge pressure and stress, often from partners and families," he said.

He confirmed that the first baby had been born and said that at present 43 women were being helped by the initiative but he could not say how much of the £140,000 received in donations had been paid out to the women. "To put a figure on it would be to cheapen it. We do not want to be seen as capitalising on these women," he said.

"In many ways this is nothing new. The Church has always helped women in this way. What Cardinal Winning did was to make women aware that there was a meaningful choice available."

Father Barry would not say if the woman who gave birth to the first baby born under the scheme a month ago was a Catholic but at the time of the offer Cardinal Winning made it clear that the offer was open to people of all faiths.

Speaking in Glasgow at the conference organised by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, the Cardinal said: "Whatever worries or cares you may have in this regard, we will help you. If you want help to cope with raising the baby on your own or discuss adoption, we will help you."

Letters, page 21



Cardinal Winning: offer of financial assistance



A minute's silence was kept during a service at Lurgan yesterday. Both Protestants and Catholics were cautious about hopes of a lasting settlement

Cynics doubt ceasefire will produce peace

Martin Fletcher finds the jubilation of 1994 replaced by a weary scepticism on the streets

THE IRA laid its arms aside at midday yesterday, but on the streets of Belfast there was none of the jubilation that greeted the original ceasefire declaration in 1994. Events since then have left both the nationalist and Unionist communities deeply sceptical that this new cessation of hostilities will lead to real peace.

In 1994 the Catholic Falls Road was packed with cheering throngs, draped in Irish tricolours and resounded with Irish music and the din of car horns. This weekend Sinn Féin staged rallies in North and West Belfast, but they were distinctly low key.

Two or three hundred turned out to greet Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness outside Connolly House, the heavily-fortified Sinn Féin headquarters in republican Andersonstown, but the overwhelming view among the crowd was that the British had double-crossed Sinn Féin to placate the Unionists during the last ceasefire and could well do so again.

The ceasefire was fine "as long as the British don't go back on their word this time", said one of a row of middle-aged women sitting on the kerb in the

sunshine before Mr Adams's arrival. "We have to believe that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and the Sinn Féin leadership know what they're about," said another.

Brendan Malone, an unemployed 39-year-old who grew up throwing stones and petrol bombs at the security forces, actually opposed the new ceasefire because he feared "we will be sidelined and ignored like last time". The new Labour Government was still a British Government "looking after their interests first and last and certainly not the Irish interest", he said.

Another man, Chrissie Robinson, who claimed twice to have escaped loyalist assassination squads, said he deeply distrusted the Government because "they are British and we are Irish and they control our country at the moment". Britain and the Unionists just might offer concessions this time because they realised they could not defeat the IRA, but "if nothing comes of this ceasefire they won't get a third chance. It's as simple as that."

The Government was no more popular in the overwhelmingly Protestant Shankill Road, where newspaper billboards trumpeted news of the "provo" ceasefire and Union flags have yet to be removed following the July 12 Orange celebrations. There the universal complaint was that London had capitulated to the IRA.

"The more mayhem you cause, the more people you murder, the more you seem to get," Sonya Hewitt, the manageress of a wallpaper shop just yards from the fishmongers where an IRA bomb killed nine people in 1993, said.

"The basic belief is that Tony Blair has caved in to violence and violence is paying," Alfie McCrory, a cabdriver who has lived with the Troubles all his life, said. No one believed the new ceasefire was anything more than a ploy to get Sinn Féin into the peace talks. No one believed it would last. "The first time we couldn't believe it," a mother said as she stood with her young daughter beneath a wall plaque commemorating loyalist paramilitaries.

"This place was like a different world with the excitement. Now all you hear is 'For how long? It's a simple as that."

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"This place was like a different world with the excitement. Now all you hear is 'For how long? It's a simple as that."

Canadian general chosen

GENERAL John de Chastelain, a former Chief of the Canadian defence forces, will chair the Independent Commission that will oversee the dismantling of IRA and loyalist terrorist (Nicholas Watts writes).

General de Chastelain has been one of the three international chairmen of the Stormont talks for the past year. The commission is to be established by July 29 so that its members can

complete a report on how terrorists would disarm before full-scale negotiations begin in September.

General de Chastelain's appointment will be seen as a gesture to Unionists, who fear that the Independent Commission will become a toothless body. He is a senior military figure from a Commonwealth country who also has strong personal links with Britain.

Straw seeks savings in multibillion-pound fire and police budgets

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SAVINGS in the multibillion-pound police and fire service budgets are to be sought in a review of Home Office spending to be announced next week. Also, another cross-departmental study of the criminal justice system is to be set up by Jack Straw, bringing to more than 40 the number of reviews created since the Government came to power.

Ministers believe there is scope for a leaner and more effective police and fire service and the review will scrutinise the £3.9 billion the police in England and Wales receive from the Home Office and £1.3 billion going to the fire and emergency services.

One area identified for action is the mounting cost of police and fire service pensions which, because they have no funded scheme, are paid from revenues which could otherwise be spent on policing, firefighting and fire prevention.

The Audit Commission, the government's spending watchdog, said two years ago

that expenditure on fire service pensions would be one quarter of the £1.3 billion budget by 2007. It highlighted a range of efficiencies that could be made throughout the service bringing savings amounting to £67m a year.

Under the full spending review to be unveiled by Mr Straw individual studies will be made of the Prison Service, the size of the police grant, the Probation Service, asylum processes, immigration controls and the treatment of mentally disordered offenders.

A document headed *Restructured: Policy* sent to *The Times* shows that the Government did not intend to disclose in public the areas to be studied. Other areas to be looked at include the support and service given to victims of crime, the juvenile secure estate, emergency planning and community punishments.

The investigation is also to look at whether some jobs currently carried out by the Home Office could be under-

taken in partnership with organisations such as voluntary societies.

Robert Fulton, a former director of farms and industries in the Prison Service, is to chair a steering group for the review. Norman Warner, the Home Secretary's policy adviser and a former senior civil servant in the Department of Health and Social Security in the 1970s, is also to be on the steering group.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, warned of the demoralising effect on staff of the review. "Virtually all Home Office activity is now the subject of upheaval."

"Ministers need to know that these constant appraisals demoralise staff and maximise anxiety," he said. The findings of the review of the probation service are to be delivered to ministers by the autumn and final conclusion on the way ahead for the Home Office are to be reached by March next year.

Straw reneges over election pledge on private prisons

BY OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has given the go-ahead for two more privately financed jails to be built, to hold 1,200 criminals, in spite of Labour's pre-election pledge to end the privatisation of prisons.

Jack Straw has now given approval for a total of four jails to be designed and constructed by private security firms since becoming Home Secretary.

Before the election, he wrote in *Gateledge*, the Prison Officers' Association's magazine: "I should like to take this opportunity to stress my fundamental objection to prisons run by the private sector. This is surely one area where there can be no free market. We

cannot break contracts which already exist. But we shall certainly make no new ones and, within the existing budget, shall take back into public service privatised prisons as soon as 'contractually possible'."

Prison service officials are looking at an unidentified site in northern England and another in Peterborough for Category B jails that would hold 600 medium-risk offenders. One official said that both jails would be designed, financed and constructed through the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

The latest announcement that two more jails are to be built was slipped out in a

Commons written answer earlier this month, as the new Government faced a prison population rising by 250 a week. On Friday the total reached 62,319. Two weeks earlier Mr Straw chose the day that William Hague was elected leader of the Conservative Party to tear up Labour's pledge to end privatisation and announce that the Government would continue with plans for privately run jails at Pocklechurch near Bristol and Agecroft, Manchester.

The latest disclosure has infuriated the 27,000-strong POA which, along with the Prison Governors' Association, believed it had a binding pledge from Labour.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs urged to check equality

MPs and peers are being recruited to act as "gender spies" to ensure that laws passed in Parliament are equal and fair to men and women.

Kamlesh Bahl, the chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, has sent a sex-equality checklist to every member of Parliament in London and Brussels to help them influence legislation.

She wants them to nag ministers and Whitehall departments to reveal how their policies will affect men and women.

Among the questions she asks MPs to ask in future are: what is the current position of women and men in a particular area?

Thatcher chair

Cambridge University confirmed yesterday that it is in negotiations with Baroness Thatcher over the endowment of a chair in its school of management but said that the appointee need not be a Thatcherite. The Thatcher Foundation has approved a £1.9 million donation for a chair in economic and industrial enterprise.

Tory ballot date

A secret ballot is to be held among Tory members in September to endorse William Hague as leader and to back his plans to reform the party. Mr Hague will announce on Wednesday that ballot papers will be sent to constituency parties in August, fulfilling a pledge he made in his leadership campaign to ensure he had grassroots support.

MP denies affair

The Labour MP Jim Marshall yesterday denied newspaper claims that he had an affair with Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development. Mr Marshall, 56, who is married with two children, described a story in the *Sunday Mirror* as "utterly scurrilous" and "not true at all". He won Leicester South in the general election.

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Straw reneges over election pledge on private prisons

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Years grow for boy, 9, missing since Thursday

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ملک اس کے لاکھ

'People were on fire and screaming'



The balloon minutes before it crashed

Paul Wilkinson
hears accounts
of terrifying
finish to
balloon trip

SURVIVORS and eyewitnesses described yesterday how a hot-air balloon crashed in flames after hitting power cables, killing a woman and seriously injuring four others.

Phil Watson, who was in the balloon on a 50th birthday gift from his family, said: "We hit three power cables. There was a big bang and the basket burst into flames. People were on fire. Their clothes were on fire and they were screaming."

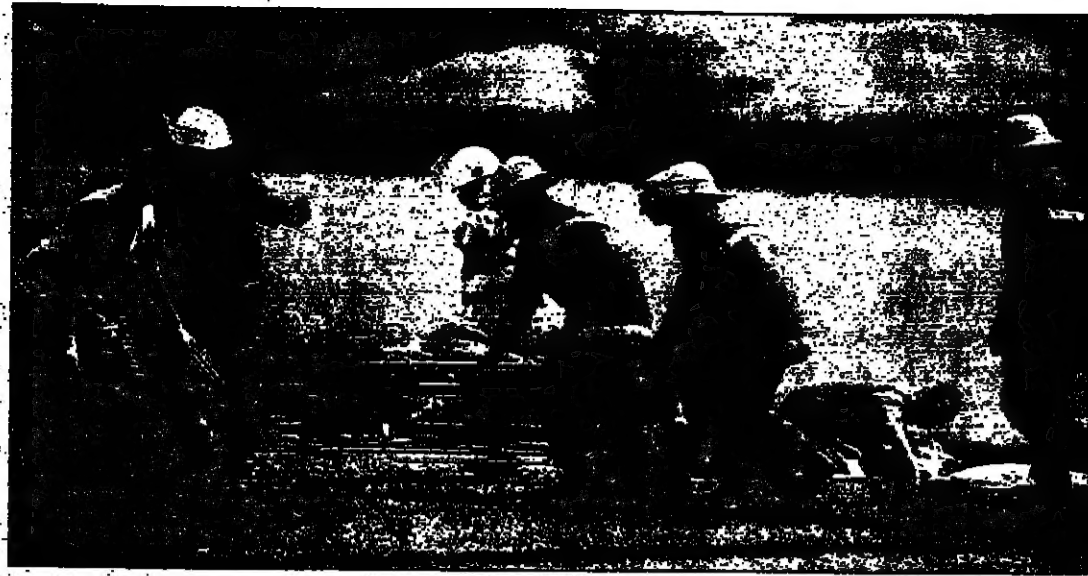
"Suddenly, at about 30ft, we were all split out and fell to the ground. Luckily I was not hurt very badly so went to help others who were strewn across the field."

Mr Watson, a bricklayer from nearby Hessle, escaped with a bruised back and scorched jacket. He had become concerned after the balloon strayed over the River Humber. "The pilot said he did not want to be above water in case we ran out of gas so he landed on the foreshore, but a gust of wind caught us and blew us up again. We took off but did not gain a lot of height."

"We went back towards the river but we were dropping all the time. People around me were beginning to get apprehensive. The pilot put on full throttle and there was a hell of a roar but we just kept dropping slowly."

Mr Watson added: "It was a nice birthday gesture by my family. It was something I had always wanted to do. But I will never ever go up in one again after that sickening experience."

John Carnazza, 67, of North Ferry, near Hull, saw the balloon from the ground. "Just minutes before my wife and I were waving and joking with the children on the balloon."



The balloon passengers and the blazing gas cylinders crashed 30ft into a field after the collision with power lines yesterday. The balloon was retrieved later from a dock in Hull

You could see them quite clearly because they were no more than 100ft above us.

"After it went out of view we heard an almighty explosion and immediately after we saw the canopy shoot into the air but the basket wasn't underneath it."

An air-sea rescue helicopter from Leconfield, east Yorkshire, and the Humber rescue boat went to the aid of the balloon, which was operated by a Leeds-based firm and sponsored by John Wetherill, the owner of a chain of mobile phone shops. The helicopter took the four seriously injured people to Hull Royal Infirmary. Eight had minor injuries.

One of the passengers, Lesley Kelsall, 30, from Barnsley, had spinal injuries. Doctors were last night waiting to see whether she would be paralysed permanently.

Paul Berriff, the rescue operations director, said: "Lifeboats were launched when the balloon hit the water near the north bank of the Humber. When we got to the scene a gust of wind blew the balloon

back out of the river and it hovered above trees at about 40ft. Unluckily it went down again and hit a power cable and went into a field."

"When I got to the field two or three propane gas cylinders exploded and there were people spreadeagled all over the place. It was a scene of utter carnage."

A coastguard spokesman said: "What should have been a pleasure trip looking at the wonders of the Humber Bridge quickly turned into a nightmare."

Grant Garrod, 11, who was helping his father to fit a speedboat engine on the river bank, said: "I saw this huge balloon with a big basket drift over very low. It was sinking lower and lower and it looked like the basket skimmed the water before there was a loud burner blast and it headed off towards trees."

"I lost sight of it for a minute but then saw a big flame rise in the air and heard a loud bang. The balloon canopy split off on its own and landed in the water."



Safety rules are strict but danger still lurks

By Terri Judd

UP to 60,000 people a year go on balloon rides in Britain, and there have been no fatalities since 1974.

When an increasing number of amateurs offered rides in the 1980s, the Civil Aviation Authority clamped down. Since 1989, anyone carrying passengers for commercial purposes has needed an air operator's certificate. Operators are obliged to keep logs of clients, flight times and checks. They are also subjected to regular inspections. A maximum of 19 people are permitted to be carried.

Ray Bailey, former balloon and airship inspector to the CAA, and now a consultant to Richard Branson's balloon designer Per Lindstrand, said: "Most accidents here involve sprained ankles after a heavy landing. The last fatality was in 1974 when a balloon crashed near Birmingham killing both pilots."

"Power lines have always been a threat to balloons. Unfortunately, they cut through a basket like a piece of butter. They cut through the fuel lines and start a fire. I can only suppose that is what happened."

"You hear of a lot of similar accidents in America, but few here," he added.

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Fears grow for boy, 9, missing since Thursday

By a Staff Reporter

FEARS for the safety of a missing nine-year-old boy were increasing "by the minute", police said yesterday. More than 100 police officers, civilians, divers and members of mountain rescue teams have scoured a huge area of north Aberdeen, for Scott Simpson, who has not been seen since Thursday afternoon.

The boy's mother, Patsy, repeated her belief that Scott had been kidnapped and pleaded for her son's safe return. Police said they were keeping an open mind and urged residents not to lose sight of the possibility that the boy might be lying injured or be frightened to come home.

The last positive sighting of Scott was at 4pm on Thursday, when he talked to his aunt outside a shop 200 yards from his home. Three hours earlier he was seen talking to a "weird" man who gave him a cigarette beside a nearby football park.

Police said they had received a phone call yesterday morning from a man claiming to be the stranger. They had not had a chance to interview him and appealed for the man to get back in touch. Detective Chief Super-

intendent Colin Martin said: "When this man called he said he had spoken to Scott, but was not in a position to speak to officers at that time and would call back. We need him to do this as soon as possible. We want to know exactly what Scott said to him, as he may be able to give us vital information."

There has been a lot of speculation about Scott speaking to a "strange man". We cannot stress enough that Scott was last seen alone and in good spirits.

Mr Martin also condemned "misinformation" that Scott had been abducted.



Scott: last sighting on Thursday at 4pm

Two facing arrest over game-park murder

From Sam Kiley in Nairobi

A FATHER'S nine-year investigation into the murder of his daughter at a Kenyan game reserve is expected to lead soon to the arrest of two men.

The mystery of who killed Julie Ward in the Masai Mara reserve in 1988 has been the subject of at least three books, and a television film currently in production. For John Ward, a hotelier from Bury St Edmunds, it has been "one long tiresome slog".

Two Masai game rangers were acquitted after a lengthy trial based on flimsy evidence five years ago. Now a team of three Kenyan officers, assisted by Mr Ward, are expected to arrest two lowly officials at the Sand River Gate, where Julie camped while touring the Masai Mara. The two men, a policeman and a ranger, had long been top of Mr Ward's list of suspects.

Kenyan officials first attempted to cover up the murder of Julie, 28, claiming that her burned and hacked remains in a remote spot were the result of an animal attack. Mr Ward's own investigations forced the authorities to accept that she had been murdered. He said: "All I have ever wanted was to find Julie's killers and to put them behind bars."

Goldsmith's family shares his millions

Lin Jenkins on how Sir James flew to Spain to die, keeping his fortune safe till the very end

IN DEATH as in life, Sir James Goldsmith's financial acumen will ensure that his unconventional extended family will want for nothing. Arrangements have long been in place to ensure that his personal wealth, estimated at around £1.5 billion, will provide for his various women and eight children.

As a French citizen — his mother was French — he was mindful that to die there would complicate his affairs and cost more in tax for those left behind. For that reason, and not just to fulfill some romantic notion of dying in the bed in which he was born, he flew from his 17th-century chateau in France to his villa Torre de Tramos in the hills beyond Marbella in Spain shortly before he died.

The main provision is made through a small financial management company with offices in Hong Kong, Geneva, New York and London. The tens of millions of pounds his estate generates in income each year will continue to be divided between his mistress, wives and offspring. The arrangements are as complex as they are secret but Sir James was a generous man who enjoyed his extended family sharing in his success.

Lady Annabel, his third wife, who raised their three children, Jemima, 23, Zacharias, 22, and Benjamin, 17, at Ormeau Lodge, a large Georgian building in six acres in Richmond, Surrey, will keep the house. It is owned by a company in the Cayman Islands but the complicated structure of trust funds and

offshore companies set up to minimise the tax burden makes it impossible to trace final ownership. She will also keep the Spanish villa that she and the children used as a holiday home and where Jemima and her husband Toran Khan spent their honeymoon.

Jemima already has a trust fund set up by her father. When she went to Bristol University he bought her a house in Clifton so she could avoid the discomforts of student digs.

Zacharias is also guaranteed a fortune, but it appears his father was grooming him for a leading role in the business interests he still held. He had, however, chosen to follow his uncle Teddy, an environmentalist, in his career and helped him to produce *The Ecologist* magazine. The pair also carry out environmental research with a team based at Sir James' Mexican hacienda on the Pacific coast.

Benjamin, is at Eton and is expected to follow his sister to university.

Sir James' second wife, Ginette Lery, 64, will keep her half of the house on the Left Bank, once owned by the composer Cole Porter, which she was given when the couple divorced, along with a £1 million cash settlement.

Their son Manes, 37, manages a football team in Mexico. His sister Alix, 33, and her Italian ship owner husband Clotilde Maruccini, spend six months of the year in Mexico running Cuixmala, the 30,000-acre purpose-built estate with 426 staff including many armed guards.

Laure Boulay de la Meurthe, 44, his mistress, will keep her half of the house on the Left Bank and an apartment in New York.

Sir James' eldest daughter, Isobel, 42, whose mother, Maria Isabel Patino, a Bolivian tin heiress, died two days after her birth, divides her time between Mexico and America. He continued to provide for her, although she inherited £50 million in 1982 through her mother's side of the family.



Sir James and Lady Annabel at home. His third wife will keep the couple's large Georgian house in Richmond and a holiday villa in Spain

Peasants shed few tears outside castle gate

Tunku Varadarajan reports on the poor villagers living beside a very exclusive Xanadu

FEW people were mourning yesterday in Zapata and Villa, the two ramshackle, scorpion-infested villages that abut the sprawling Goldsmith estate on the Pacific coast in Mexico. The villages take their names from the country's most celebrated revolutionaries — Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa — and the local temperament is both irreverent and "anti-rich".

Sir James owned 30,000 acres of prime *tierra* here, in the province of Jalisco, where the average peasant's landholding is an acre or two at best and the median wage is £20 a week. On this land he built a sybaritic fortress, known to the locals as *El Castillo*.

This self-made Xanadu was hermetically sealed to keep out intruders

of all sorts, from pesky pressmen to local cattle-herders and poachers. An estimated 200 guards patrol the place at all times, armed to the teeth with automatic weapons. Every inch of the Goldsmith land is under surveillance and a vast radio transponder on the beach below the mansion helps the guards to keep in touch with one another.

The place is heart-breakingly beautiful. In a gesture that his friends describe as evidence of his greatness — and his critics call a monumental conceit — he declared his property an "ecological conservation zone" and a "biosphere". Indeed, a team of scientists is stationed on the estate, conducting ecological research under the tutelage of Sir James' brother Teddy

and, occasionally, of John Aspinall, the zoo owner.

The main house has only two bedrooms, although each is larger than a tennis court. The rest of the estate consists of a capacious reception area, covered in a domed brick ceiling. Guests stay in cottages that adorn the estate and there are vast barracks for servants and guards. An airstrip runs parallel to the Pacific aircraft bring in visitors from abroad and goodies from Mexico City.

The attitude of the locals towards *El Castillo* is a complex one: although many villagers from Zapata and Villa are employed there as cooks, cleaners, gardeners and "gofers", hundreds of others were hit when Sir James bought the estate. Overnight, land that

villagers had used for grazing for generations became inaccessible. Fishermen were forbidden to catch in the waters off the estate's long shoreline.

Local doctors also complain that their rich neighbour did little to help with the area's long-running scorpion plague, from which scores of people die each year and many more are taken seriously ill.

Sir James, however, was drawn more to the area's beauty. His passion for the Pacific coast burgeoned in the 1980s and quickly transmuted itself in other members of his family. Today, his daughter Isobel spends much time there, running an exclusive yacht paradise at La Alcazar, near Acapulco, to the south of *El Castillo*.

£1.5bn fortune 'tied up in shares and cash'

By Jon Ashworth

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH conducted his financial affairs through an arcane web of companies and charitable foundations. The trail has led to the Cayman Islands, Panama and Liechtenstein, complicating the task of unravelling his empire.

Since his official "retirement" in 1990, Sir James' name has most commonly been linked with General Oriental Investments, a company registered in the Cayman Islands, and quoted on the Vancouver Stock Exchange. Described as the holding company for Goldsmith interests, General Oriental was previously based in Hong Kong, but quit the colony in 1984.

General Oriental is controlled by Compania Financiera Lido, based in Panama, according to data held by America's Securities and Exchange Commission. Another Panamanian company, Enderbury Financial, holds a significant stake in General Oriental.

Enderbury is controlled by the Brunner Foundation, a charitable body based in Liechtenstein. Enderbury owns 60 per cent of Lido (according to the last available figures) with the remaining 40 per cent held by Sir James.

Ownership of the various Goldsmith assets, including five homes, and the Boeing 757 jet, is likely to be vested in trusts, based offshore as part of a complex tax avoidance exercise. This type of structure is employed routinely — and quite legitimately — by corporations such as Hanson, which juggle assets in an attempt to reduce their tax bill.

Sir James' reputed £1.5 billion fortune is thought to be tied up in cash and equities, although it is possible that a considerable amount remains invested in gold bullion.

In 1991, the tycoon swapped the forestry assets of his company Cavenham for a 49 per cent stake in Newmont Mining, America's biggest mining group.

Two years later, he sold some of the shares to George Soros, the speculator, and was rumoured to have invested the \$350 million dollars proceeds in gold options, triggering a run on gold.



Sir James in Paris after his first marriage

Obituary, page 23
Graham Searjeant, page 46

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Source: Moneyfacts July 1997

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Weight loss is first clue to onset of pancreatic cancer

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH never looked more debonair and elegant than in the photograph taken at his daughter Jemima's wedding. Careful study of these will however show Sir James was already losing weight; his collar was loose and there was guttering on the back of his hands where loss of fat had exposed the contours of the bones and ligaments.

Sir James's case history is typical in that most patients who develop cancer of the pancreas have unexplained weight loss as the first, and for many months only, symptoms. When a definite diagnosis of cancer of the pancreas is made, 90 per cent of patients have already noticed involuntary weight loss, and 10 per cent have upper abdominal pain. This pain is also felt in the centre of the upper back, between the lower borders of the shoulder blades, and it can be eased by leaning forward, or going to bed and lying in the foetal position.

Sir James was never someone to give up if the odds were

against him, but on this occasion he was, even for a lifelong successful gambler, defying the formbook when he hoped to win a cure by abandoning conventional medicine in favour of Ayurvedic therapy. This therapy is a form of alternative medicine recommended by an Indian mystic.

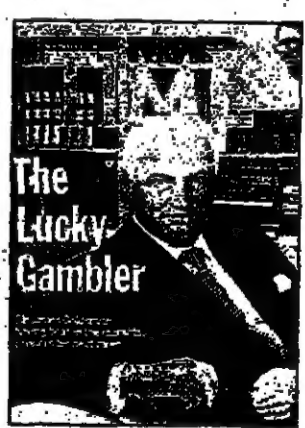
Less than 2 per cent of patients with cancer of the pancreas survive five years after diagnosis and even in those in whom there has been no apparent spread of the tumour when it is first discovered, and they are considered suitable for surgery, only one in ten lives for five years.

Since it is reported that Sir James's tumour was first recognised in 1993 and he was still vigorously crusading at the general election, it could be said that conventional treatment had served him comparatively well in his battle to keep going. It would have been unfortunate if rejection of all Western medicine, as advocated by those taking Ayurvedic therapy, deprived

Sir James of the relief from pain and discomfort which well-applied modern palliative medicine can offer.

Sir James's death is said to have been from a heart attack. More often than is realised, this is nature's kindly *coup de grace* delivered to people suffering from malignant disease. All cancers, even when the tumour is comparatively small, increases the tendency of blood clot.

The end for thousands of people each year, suffering from cancer comes as it did with Sir James, and the late King George VI, in the form of a heart attack or stroke.



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Dean of Lincoln tipped to leave troubled cathedral

Letter to Queen is expected, reports Ruth Gledhill

THE Dean of Lincoln is expected to resign this week, raising hopes that the conflict which has blighted cathedral life for the past decade will end.

The Very Rev Brandon Jackson is expected to submit a letter of resignation to the Queen via Downing Street. Friends of the Dean said last night that an announcement is due on Thursday.

Dr Jackson, 62, was keeping a low profile yesterday and there was no response from his home in Lincoln. Both he and Canon Rex Davis, the sub-dean, were asked to resign more than a year ago by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey.

Canon Davis was not available for comment last night, but it appears that Dr Jackson is the first to accede to Dr Carey's request. Reports that Dr Jackson will receive a settlement of £250,000 were denied by Lambeth Palace.

Trouble began at Lincoln in the late 1980s after a fundraising trip to Australia headed by Canon Davis, when an exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta incurred losses of more than £50,000. Dr Jackson called in the police but a fraud investigation ended with no charges being brought.

The Bishop of Lincoln, the



Davis: dispute over his fundraising venture

Right Rev Robert Hardy, launched an inquiry into the matter and criticised both men. The Bishop asked members of the cathedral chapter to "consider their positions", but none resigned.

Three years ago, scandal erupted again when a part-time vergier, Verity Frestona, alleged that the Dean had attempted to have sexual relations with her. A consistory court was convened in 1995 which acquitted Dr Jackson of conduct unbecoming a man in holy orders.

After his acquittal, Dr Jackson launched a scathing attack on the Bishop and the cathedral, which he said was a "centre of a spiritual battle between good and evil". He

accused one canon of lying and the Bishop of conspiracy, and later called for the cathedral to be closed for six months so that it could be exorcised.

Dr Jackson consistently denied the allegations and said that they strengthened his marriage to his wife, Mary. When Dr Jackson became Dean in 1989, Margaret Thatcher, who was Prime Minister, said: "There'll be blood on the carpet before he's finished."

Dr Jackson made it clear earlier that he has been preparing to resign, and that he wants to leave his post ready for a new dean to be installed by the autumn of this year. Bishop Hardy said yesterday that he was unaware of any offer to resign.

The Right Rev Bill Ince, the Bishop of Truro, who until recently was the suffragan Bishop of Grantham in the Lincoln Diocese, said: "We all know that negotiations have been going on. It sounds as if the thing has come to a head. I am glad, partly for Brandon's sake, because it has put an enormous strain on him."

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey said: "It is known that discussions have been ongoing. We have kept these entirely private as they are private matters."



Dr Jackson arriving for service yesterday. Worshippers at the cathedral hope for an end to a decade of conflict

Farm-trip boy has brain damage

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged four who contracted *E. coli* from a farm visit is unlikely to be able to recognise his family again.

"We have been told our son is severely brain-damaged," John Dowling, 31, the boy's father, said yesterday. "Three weeks ago Tom was an excited little boy going off for a visit to a farm. Today he is lying on his back with a tube up his nose to feed him, incapable of knowing any of his family. We are all devastated."

Two other children had contracted the disease shortly before he went there. If we had known that, we might never have let him go."

About 112,000 children a year visit Bowman's Farm at Colney Heath, Hertfordshire. Families were warned to make certain their children understood the importance of washing their hands after touching the animals and before eating. Mr Dowling, of Barnet, north London, said: "Tom wasn't keen on touching the animals. He probably only touched grass where the animal had been."

Two children became ill last month before his visit, and one later, none seriously. The farm has closed voluntarily pending tests results and disinfection. A goat has been destroyed.

Tests on eight people who fell ill with *E. coli* after the Glastonbury festival have blamed contaminated food.

Middle class will pay the price of student shake-up

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MIDDLE-CLASS parents seem likely to pick up much of the bill for the new pay-as-you-go system of higher education to be announced on Wednesday, despite government assurances yesterday that their contribution would not rise.

Labour's proposals in Opposition, embraced by Sir Ron Dearing's review, were to shift the burden of payment to graduates and away from parents and the State. All students would have access to larger loans, with repayment contingent on later salaries, making parental income irrelevant.

But ministers fear that the level of charges needed to close a £3 billion funding gap in universities would deter students from poor families from taking degrees. As a result, they will reject key recommendations in the Dearing report and waive fees for those whose parents earn less than £16,000.

Government sources sought to reassure affluent parents yesterday that they would not be paying for the concession. Officials said that the parental contribution would remain the same as at present, and loans would be increased to take account of fees of up to £1,000. A sliding

scale of fees will operate where parental incomes are between £16,000 and £34,000.

Beyond that, parents will still be expected to help their children through higher education, although the maximum loan will rise to about £3,000 a year. Research submitted to Sir Ron's committee showed that the majority of students still come from relatively well-off households.

Many students will finish their courses with debts of more than £10,000. But finance houses are gearing up for a surge in demand for savings plans in the expectation that parents will take on much of the burden.

The Dearing report will recommend keeping maintenance grants, but raising about £1 billion a year for universities through tuition fees. The Government proposes instead to phase out grants and introduce variable, means-tested fees. Critics from Sir Ron's committee said that the Government's compromise would not raise as much money and would make it more likely that extra funds would have to be shared with the 450 further education colleges.

Students already on courses will not pay the new charges or lose grant rights.

The elderly 'need to have own advocates'

By Alexandra Ffran

PROFESSIONAL "advocates" should be introduced to represent the interests of vulnerable elderly people, whose rights may be abused or ignored by institutions responsible for their well-being, an academic has recommended.

Professor Chris Phillipson, professor of applied social studies at Keele University, said that it was not always appropriate for social workers, doctors or nurses to take major decisions about the welfare of elderly people in their care, because they may be tempted to put external factors, such as budgetary considerations, first. Elderly people suffering from dementia often had no close family or friends who could make decisions for them. As a result, they had no say.

One solution could be teams of "advocates", paid by the state. This role could be filled best by other elderly people who were in full possession of their faculties, he told a conference organised by Counsel and Care, an advice group for older people.

Professor Phillipson also called for new legal guidelines about protecting the rights of vulnerable adults, and more training in this area for care workers who worked with the elderly.

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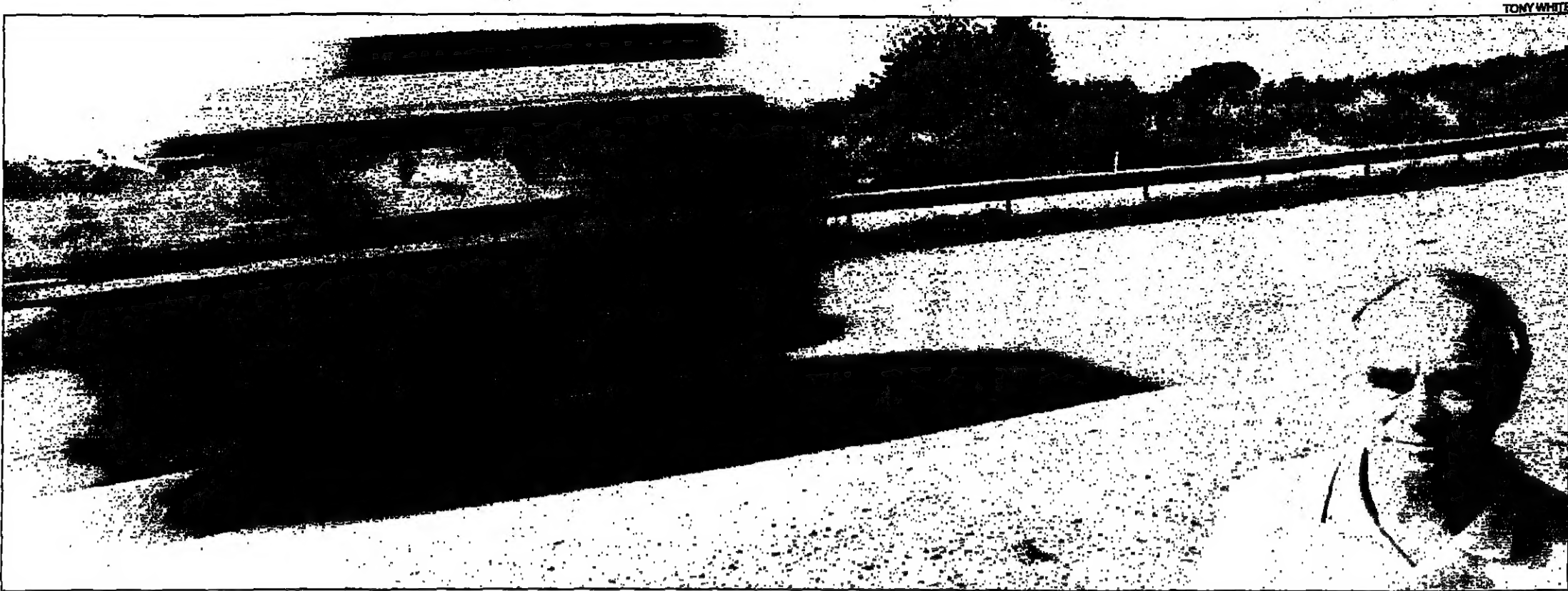
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Noise payouts for new road hit £22m



Roy Eames, former chairman of the residents' association, beside the A27, where compensation payments have outstripped the £20 million cost of building the road. Now residents want it resurfaced.

A ROAD that has cost taxpayers more in compensation than it did to build is to be referred to the Commons public spending watchdog. Almost £22 million has been paid to homeowners near an eight-mile stretch of dual carriageway that cost £30 million to build eight years ago.

Residents close to the A27 Havant to Chichester road waged a successful campaign to secure payments of up to £30,000 for those whose houses were devalued because of traffic noise.

Now the campaigners on the border of Hampshire and West Sussex, who won compensation for 2,500 people, are demanding that ministers order the resurfacing of stretches of the road with low-noise

Residents say a different surface could have saved millions, reports Arthur Leathley

material in use across Europe. David Willetts, the Tory employment spokesman and MP for Havant, is pressing for the Public Accounts Committee to investigate now that compensation payments have been completed.

The Warblington Residents' Association collected evidence of the nuisance caused by traffic noise. It also showed that the road surface led to more spray and road salt being thrown up, damaging paintwork on homes.

Roy Eames, the former chairman of the association, said: "The noise just never goes away and some people can't sit outside because of

the roar of traffic." Mr Eames, who lives 160 yards from the road, said: "It has also led to a huge amount of dust settling on houses and obviously that has an effect on the value of property. A lot of the compensation payments could have been avoided if the Government had listened to expert advice."

The residents are calling on John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport, and the Regions, to act on his previous support for their campaign by pressing the Highways Agency to resurface the road, which is made from ridged concrete, one of the noisiest surfaces. Mr Prescott visited

the area as Shadow Transport Secretary and pressed ministers to resurface the road.

The irony of Mr Prescott's past backing is not lost on Mr Willetts. "I'm very pleased that Mr Prescott offered his support and now I hope he will do something practical to help," Mr Willetts said. He added that the worst-affected stretches could be resurfaced for less than £500,000, or noise-absorbing screens could be erected.

Road builders claim that most of the compensation payments could have been avoided by resurfacing with a low-noise material. Tim Green, chairman of the Refined

Bitumen Association, representing companies using asphalt surfaces, said: "It should become the standard practice to consider the use of these asphalt surfaces. Not only will it improve the quality of life for those living next to busy roads but it could also save money."

British scientists led the world in developing porous asphalt but Britain has lagged behind many European countries and Australia in using the material, which is claimed to halve road noise.

However the Highways Agency, which is accountable to Mr Prescott, is reluctant to set a precedent. Moves to reduce traffic noise have

increased after research showing that the value of more than 13 million homes in England and Wales has been reduced by an estimated £33 billion because of road noise.

Complaints about loud music, barking dogs and rowdy pubs and clubs are increasing, a survey shows. Eighty per cent of councils report an increase in complaints about amplified music from neighbours and 67 per cent report an increase in complaints about dogs.

Industrial noise and traffic noise were ranked as the third and fourth most important sources of noise nuisance. The survey was carried out by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection in advance of National Noise Awareness Day on Wednesday.

Editors rally to paper fined for contempt

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

EDITORS and media lawyers defended the *News of the World* yesterday after its £50,000 fine for contempt of court over the halting of a criminal trial.

In a ruling likely to be challenged on appeal, the Sunday newspaper was found guilty of contempt over a story published under the headline "We smash £100m fake cash ring". Geoffrey Robertson, QC, the leading media silk, said yesterday that he hoped the newspaper would contest the ruling in the House of Lords and if unsuccessful in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, as a breach of Article 10, guaranteeing freedom of expression.

The contempt finding was over a report resulting from the newspaper's investigation into an alleged large-scale conspiracy by two men to flood the market with counterfeit British, American and Spanish money.

They were arrested on September 10, 1994, and charged. The next day the *News of the World* described how a reporter had uncovered the conspiracy allegedly involving Tony Hassan and Anthony Cadori.

Ten months later their trial at Isleworth Crown Court, southwest London, was halted after their lawyers argued that the article prejudiced the trial. Last week Lord Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Auld upheld the halting of the trial and ruled against the paper.

The ruling was widely criticised yesterday as a blow to investigative journalism. The newspaper said in an editorial: "For 154 years it has been our role to uncover the activities of criminals, often at great risk to our own people."

"When appropriate, we pass our files to the police in time for them to make arrests shortly before we publish our findings. And that is what we did on this occasion." Had it published before the arrests, it "would have been in the clear," the newspaper said.

Mr Robertson said the trial judge could have empaneled jurors who had not read the *News of the World*.

Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, was quoted in the paper as saying: "This judgment not only meant that two crooks walked free: it means the police's job will in future be much harder."

Photograph, page 24

Hormone link to cancer

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN with high levels of a natural hormone in their blood could be five times more likely to develop breast cancer, according to research published today.

The findings could enable a new method of screening to be developed to give women who might be susceptible to the disease early warning.

The 13-year study by scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund investigated the link between breast cancer and oestradol, the natural hormone responsible for the development of female sexual characteristics. Blood samples

were taken from 2,500 post-menopausal women on Guernsey between 1977 and 1990. About eight years later 61 of these women had developed breast cancer. Oestradol was then measured in their blood samples and compared with the levels in the women who did not develop the disease.

"Women with high levels were found to be up to five times more likely to subsequently develop breast cancer than women with low levels," Hollie Thomas of the cancer fund's Oxford-based epidemiology unit, writes in the *British Journal of Cancer*. "This strongly suggests that high levels of oestradol are strongly related to breast cancer risk in post-menopausal women. At present it is not possible to undertake mass screening to detect these levels. However this research is a significant step forward in understanding breast cancer."

Fund researchers are now looking for factors that control the level of oestradol in the blood. So far the only well established factor is obesity, which is known to cause a moderate increase in the risk of breast cancer.

ish *Journal of Cancer*. "This strongly suggests that high levels of oestradol are strongly related to breast cancer risk in post-menopausal women. At present it is not possible to undertake mass screening to detect these levels. However this research is a significant step forward in understanding breast cancer."

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Tan lures children into danger

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST children think a tan is more attractive than a slim figure, according to a survey published today as school summer holidays begin.

The "alarming" results have prompted the Cancer Research Campaign to issue guidelines to help parents protect their children from the sun. The MORI survey, commissioned by the charity, found that while 58 per cent of eight to ten-year-olds thought a tan was "cool", only 41 per cent thought that it was preferable to be thin.

The charity said that play-

ing outside in Britain can be just as dangerous as two weeks in a sunny resort abroad. Only six bouts of sunburn during a lifetime double the risk of developing cancer.

As children spend three times as long in the sun as the average adult, they can easily have become vulnerable to the disease before they are out of their teens. The fund says that children under 15 increase their chances of contracting skin cancer in later life every time they get sunburnt.

Each year 40,000 new cases of skin cancer are reported in Britain, with the most serious

form killing 1,500 annually. Since the disease takes up to 20 years to develop, experts fear that the numbers will accelerate because of the growth in sunshine holidays since the 1970s. If present trends continue, skin cancer could reach epidemic proportions early in the next century.

Professor Gordon McVie, director of the charity, has called on parents to ensure that their children are protected from the sun from babyhood. "Deliberately exposing the skin to unnecessary ultraviolet is always harmful," he said. "We have to alter perceptions and behaviour and realise a child's skin needs

protection at all times. The dangers aren't just on sunny foreign holidays, but in the UK sunshine as well."

The charity's guidelines for protecting children start from birth. Babies should be kept out of the sun completely until they are six months old.

After that nobody should go out in the sun between 11am and 3pm. Sunscreen with a protection factor of at least 15 must always be worn and reapplied frequently. Broad-brimmed hats and tops should be worn as much as possible when in direct sunlight.

Photograph, page 24

'Shut up' call to mobile phone users

By LIN JENKINS

THE mobile phone, at first mocked as an affliction of the self-important before becoming a convenient tool of everyday life, is again under attack for being an irritant.

With many of Britain's seven million users unwilling to follow protocol voluntarily, a Conservative MP wants summary fines to put an end to the intrusive, crackling conversations in unlikely places.

Beaches, parks, sporting venues, restaurants, pubs, buses, cinemas and railway carriages are likely to be among the places singled out for a ban in a Private Member's Bill to be introduced on Thursday by Michael Fabricant, Conservative MP for Lichfield, Staffordshire.

He said: "It is the height of rudeness when people accept calls in the middle of a meal in



Fabricant: question of good manners

a restaurant and start barking down their phones. It is a strange thing that as soon as people start talking into mobile phones, they seem compelled to speak at three times the volume of normal conversations."

He wants the list of restricted

places left open so that it can keep pace with technology. "We may soon have waterproof phones strapped to people's heads in public swimming pools."

Bans on mobile phones have not always worked. The Savoy Hotel in London barred their use in public areas but the number of flagrant breaches forced it to abandon the attempt. However, the Great Western Railway is restricting users to certain carriages, while InterCity West Coast asks passengers to "behave responsibly, make only essential calls, and quietly."

Hospitals ask patients not to use them. In courts, judges have threatened to exercise powers to jail offenders for contempt when proceedings have been interrupted by the distinctive trill. MPs have been told by the Commons

Speaker not to take mobile phones into the House and none is allowed in the Strangers' Gallery.

Mountain rescue teams complain of time-wasting callers who seem to believe that a phone is an alternative to proper navigation and proper equipment. The coastguard shares their view.

In sport, Royal Troon barred mobile phones on the course for the Open to allow golfers and spectators a chance to concentrate uninterrupted. Other golf courses issue similar instructions to members that they may not take phones on the fairway.

At a football match last season in Maidenhead, Berkshire, a substitute linesman answered his mobile phone during the game. He was booked by the referee and told that he would be sent off if it happened again.



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DELL

July 21, 1997

Alien invaders threaten survival of native species

Nick Nuttall
on the threat
posed by
unwanted
exotic pets

THE countryside is teeming with a wide range of exotic and potentially hazardous frogs, toads, turtles and snakes, a study has found. Researchers have discovered that along with the more familiar alien species, such as North American bullfrogs and red-eared terrapins, there are also breeding populations of stripe-necked and painted terrapins, the African clawed toad and fire-bellied toad. Dice, king and the Aesculapian snakes from Europe and North America are also at large in the countryside with at least some breeding, the report by the conservation charity FrogLife claims.

Most are former pets, accidentally or deliberately released by thoughtless owners. Jim Foster, an expert on reptiles and amphibians, urged the public to become "alien spotters".

He said the foreign species could take over the habitats and food supply of native species, could carry deadly pathogens or cross-breed to create unwanted "genetically polluted" hybrids.

"If we can be told about an alien population soon enough we can try and nip it in the bud," Mr Foster, of FrogLife, said. The report, to be released as a public information pamphlet, has been backed by the Environment Agency, wildlife groups and government wildlife advisers including English Nature.

Five species of alien turtles

and terrapins are living in the wild. Some 200 ponds and watercourses across the country now hold American red-eared terrapins. The biggest site is near Routh Park, Cardiff docks, where there are about 100.

Mr Foster said FrogLife was alarmed at the number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest contaminated with the former pets: up to seven national nature reserves were found to hold red-eared terrapins.

The stripe-necked terrapin is native to Iberia and the southwest Balears but there is now a population in East Sussex. Others include the North American painted turtle and the snapping turtle, which has extremely strong jaws and can inflict severe injury. The species, which grows up to 50cm, has been found at a site in West Sussex.

Of particular concern is the Italian crested newt, which cross-breeds with the rare native species, the great crested newt. A population of the hybrid exists in Surrey.

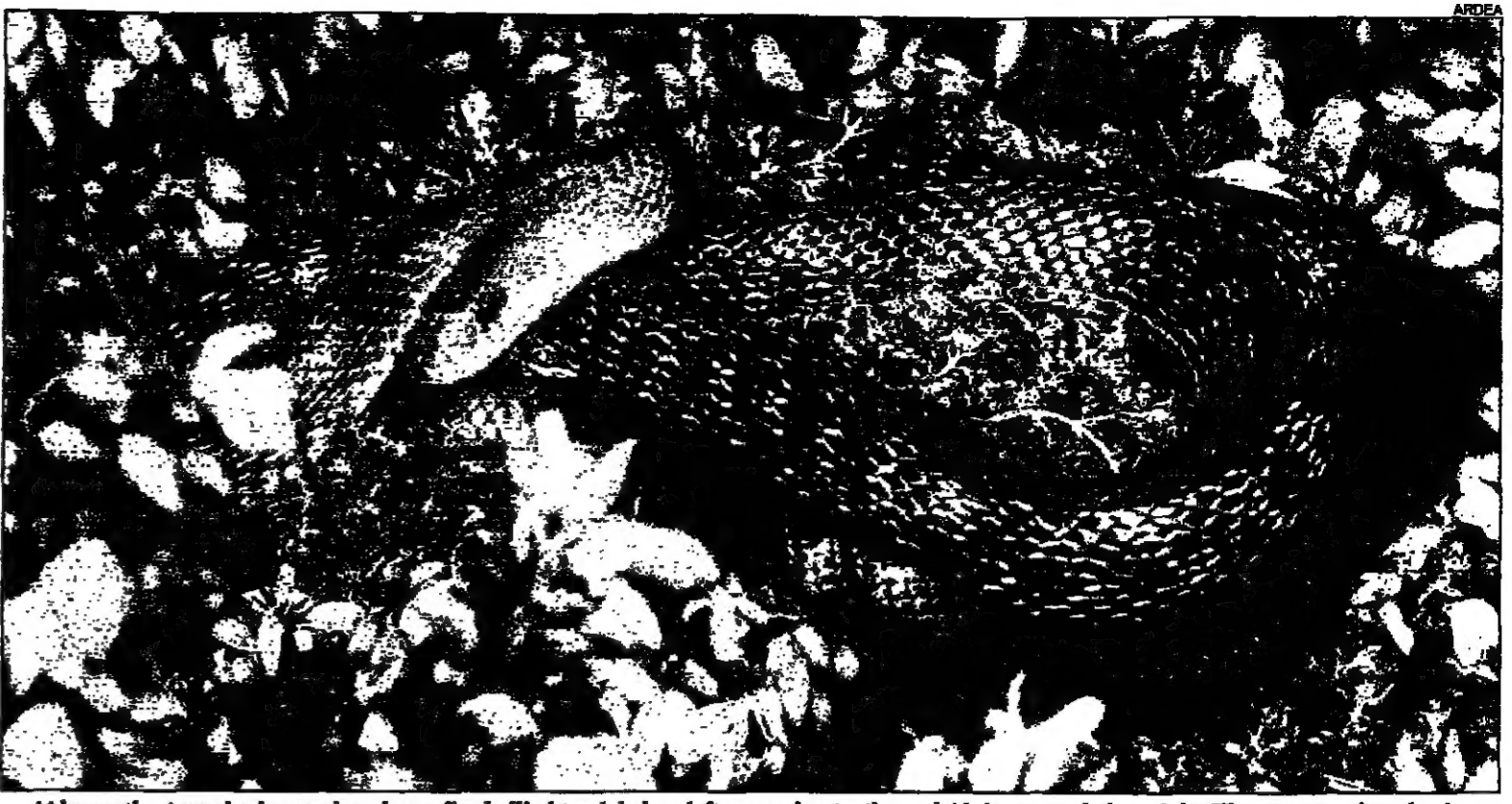
Scores of sightings of North

American bullfrogs have been made, mainly around London and the South East. It is feared these large creatures, escapees from garden ponds, are devouring native frog tadpoles. Other strangers at large include the European tree frog and the Africa clawed toad, which was once used by hospitals and universities for research. "It feeds underwater and predaes tadpoles of our native amphibians," the report says. There are several wild colonies, including one on the Isle of Wight and one in South Wales.

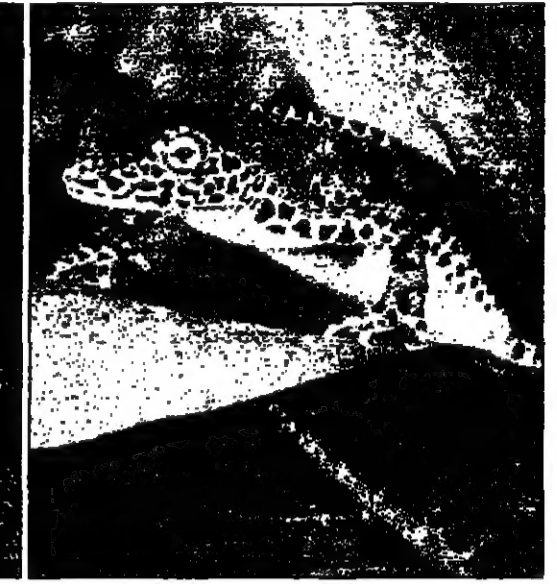
Green frogs from from continental Europe are in counties like Kent and are deemed beyond control. There are fire-bellied toads, *Bombina orientalis*, from the Continent living at a site in southeast London. And the midwife toad of southern and central Europe is well established in several areas in Bedfordshire.

The report claims that the most common exotic snakes found in the countryside are rat, garter and king or milk snakes from America. The snakes are not poisonous but there can be occasional sightings of more deadly pythons, the report says. At least one exotic snake is breeding here. The non-poisonous Aesculapian snake from southern Europe can be found at an undisclosed site in North Wales.

Exotic Reptiles and Amphibians in the Wild (FrogLife, PO Box 1, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 9AW)



At large: the Aesculapian snake, above, fire-bellied toad, below left, snapping turtle, and Alpine newt, below right. The conservation charity FrogLife says that escaped foreign species may carry deadly pathogens or cross-breed to create unwanted "genetically polluted" hybrids



University unearths forgotten Irish apples

By Audrey Magee
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



NATIVE Irish apples have been saved from extinction and will soon be marketed as an alternative to the omnipresent Golden Delicious and Granny Smith. Apples with names such as Bloody Butcher, Red Brandy, the Smelter and Irish Molloy will shortly be for sale by mail order.

More than 70 varieties prevalent in the mid-19th century have been rediscovered in remote farms and abandoned houses around Ireland. They are usually smaller and more intense in flavour than many

now grown commercially and they are grown without pesticides as they appear resistant to modern-day diseases of scab, mildew and canker.

The long road to saving the Irish apple began with a young PhD student who travelled Ireland to record its apples. J.G. Lamb's 1949 thesis identified 40, mostly using the pet-names given them by locals. Samples of his trees in Dublin were bulldozed for construction work in the 1970s and other samples sent to the Brogdale Trust in Kent were struck by fireblight disease, making it difficult to return slips or cuttings to Ireland until last year. Now apples grown in a

controlled environment at University College Dublin are expected to be picked next month for analysis.

Working with the UCD team is Anita Hayes, founder of the Irish Seed Savers' Association. She is preparing her own apples for eating after touring the country to properly identify surviving examples, many of which are now in her nursery at Scariff, Co. Clare.

She will sell apples on specific orders but the trees are too delicate at the moment to supply a general market. She said: "We have to take all this very slowly to make sure the apples remain viable. Trees teach you to be patient."

Dogs take lead from owner

By Nick Nuttall

DOGS who live with shy, tense and emotionally unstable people are far more likely to become aggressive. Researchers believe they have uncovered clear evidence that the personality of a dog's owner is the key to whether the pet develops behavioural problems or becomes a well-balanced, lovable companion.

About half the dogs were classified as being low in aggression and the other half as high. Aggression was

classified as protectiveness of itself or its owner, violent behaviour towards people approaching the house and other, unfamiliar dogs.

Owners of high aggression dogs were significantly more likely to be tense, emotionally less stable, shy and undisciplined, the researchers say. They believe the most plausible explanation is that these dogs respond to their owners' anxiety, neuroses and shyness and never become properly socialised.

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Union fights to put pride back into urban parks

Alexandra Frean on an attempt to return park-keepers to power

A CAMPAIGN to save Victorian and Edwardian parks from financial cuts, neglect and poor management will be launched this week.

Budget cuts and government indifference, combined with the replacement of traditional park-keepers with contract workers, have started to erode amenities, according to a report to be published this week by the GMB trade union.

Despite the promise of more than £60 million of National Lottery money for restoration the report, *More Grounds for Concern*, says that more action — and more money — will be needed to improve and maintain Britain's public gardens, which are visited by up to eight million people daily.

Mark Bramah, an adviser at the Association of Direct Labour Organisations, which has produced the report with the GMB, surveyed 80 local authorities. He said the process of compulsory competitive tendering (CCT), introduced in the late 1980s had had a disastrous effect on the way parks were managed.

Rigid contract conditions often took no account of how the vagaries of the weather could affect outdoor working, while the replacement of local gardeners with teams of contractors was leading to a fall in standards.

"CCT has also led to an adversarial approach between the people who manage parks and those who actually do the maintenance work, which is often counterproductive," he said. It had resulted in a drop in training, threatening the survival of traditional horticultural and fine turf skills.

Although the Government was committed to phasing out CCT in the long term, Mr Bramah said action was needed now. He called for the Government to make the maintenance of parks a statu-

tory duty for local authorities. The survey, which will be published at the Local Government Association annual conference in Manchester tomorrow, showed that the level of funding on parks and open spaces had either decreased or remained the same in more than 80 per cent of cases. Fewer than one in five respondents reported an increase in parks expenditure.

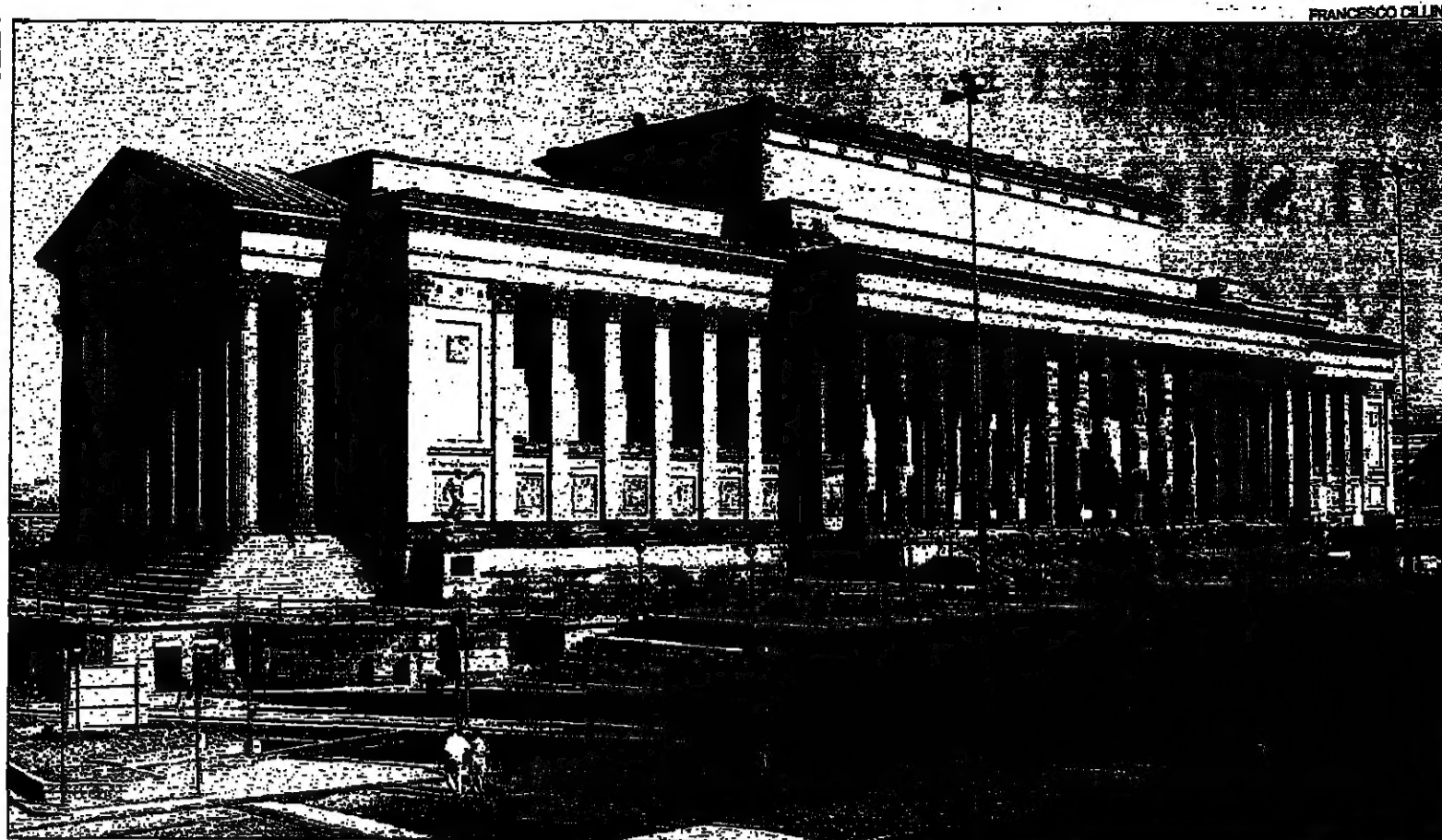
Although most local authorities had made significant savings in their parks budgets since the introduction of CCT, with nearly one quarter saving more than £100,000 a year, little of that money was reinvested in parks. Nearly 68 per cent of authorities said the savings were used to offset budget reductions in other areas.

The numbers of staff employed in the parks service had been dramatically reduced as a result of the introduction of CCT. Seventy per cent of respondents reported significant falls in full-time staff. In some cases the workforce had fallen by more than 50 per cent since 1990.

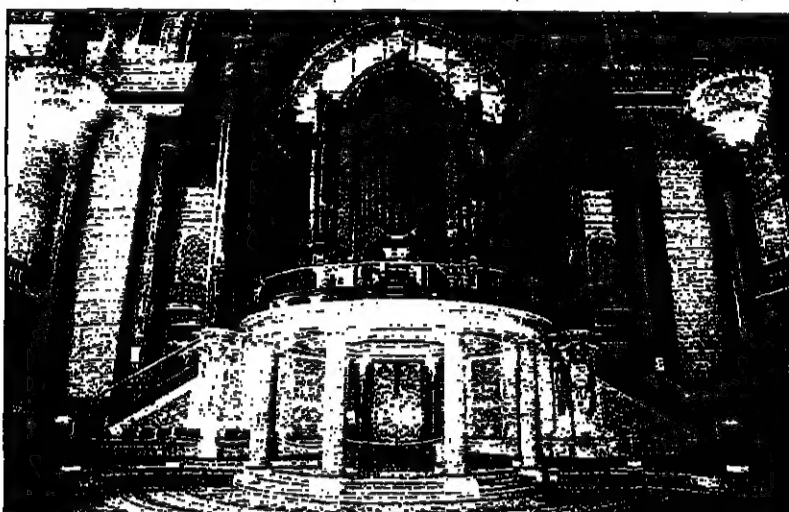
Sixty four per cent of authorities surveyed said that there had been a reduction in park-keepers and other site-based staff. That had led to a deterioration in service and a drop in public confidence that parks were safe.

Dr Hazel Conway, of the Victorian Society, who has written three books on Britain's urban parks, said lottery money alone would not restore parks.

New management approaches were needed, she said. "Gardening is all about tweeking and keeping things up. You don't get the personal touch with gangs of workers who just come into the park every so often for a few hours. Traditional park-keepers used to take a terrific personal pride in their parks."



Hall of fame: St George's Hall in Liverpool, where restoration would include the 1851 organ, below left. The hall abounds with neo-classical detail



£30m plea for a matter of life and death

By RUSSELL JENKINS

TRUSTEES of one of the world's greatest 19th-century buildings have completed a £30 million bid for National Lottery money to restore it to the glory when it once housed both a lively arts scene and a court sending killers to the gallows.

The 490ft-long, neo-classical St George's Hall in Liverpool was described by Queen Victoria as worthy of ancient Athens, and the Prince of Wales has called it one of the greatest public buildings of the past 200 years. It was built in 1838 to contain the Assizes Court alongside its Great Hall and a smaller concert hall. In 1867

Charles Dickens delivered celebrated readings there.

Its future has been in jeopardy since 1984 when the judges moved out to a modern complex on the other side of the city. Liverpool City Council has struggled to maintain the fabric, but parts of the landmark, opposite Liverpool Lime Street station are closed to the public and the sunken tile floor is too fragile to be exposed to public view.

The trust, with the support of the city council, is submitting the lottery application for restoration and improvements, including exhibition and tourist facilities and restaurants. It has also applied for a further £10 million

from Brussels. Simon Osborne, the hall manager, said: "Our scheme will bring St George's Hall back to life and turn it into a national attraction. At the moment less than half of the hall is in use. The rest is closed to the public. We would be able to bring the whole building into public use."

The plan envisages a new life for the concert hall, whose cream, white and honey interior is one of the finest of the Victorian era. There would be restoration for the catacombs, which have an early and elaborate air-conditioning system, and for the Assize Court, where more than 2,000 people were sentenced to death. There are plans to open the prison cells, including the

condemned cell, to the public. Repairs to the roof alone would cost £5.6 million.

The second phase, set for between 1999 and 2000 and involving the south end of the hall, would include an exhibition hall, restaurants and a shop. Phase three, due to be completed by 2001, would involve repairs to the 1851 organ and the Minton tiled floor.

Robert Quinn, chairman of the council's leisure committee and a trustee, said the conservation plan had been meticulously researched. The early indications from lengthy public consultation showed that the people of Liverpool wanted to retain the "widest possible use".

Prince marks 100 years of Tate Gallery

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales, despite his best efforts as a watercolourist, does not yet grace the walls of the Tate Gallery. But as patron of the premier collection of British art he will be on hand today to celebrate its centenary.

On July 21, 1897, a previous Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, opened a modest collection on the site of the old Millbank prison by the Thames. It was based on a bequest of 67 paintings given to the nation by Sir Henry Tate, who had made his fortune from having found a new way to make sugar cubes.

The collection has expanded sevenfold; Sir Henry's firm, still a household name, remains a significant benefactor. Among the guests today are some of Sir Henry's direct descendants, along with Sir Edwin Manton, who recently gave £7 million.

More than 100 British artists, including Lucian Freud, Sir Howard Hodgkin, Anish Kapoor and Sir Anthony Caro, have been invited. David Hockney is unlikely to travel from America but he has already designed a centenary poster on display at Tube stations.

In 2000 the Tate will experience its most significant expansion yet when the former Bankside power station in London opens as the major British gallery of international modern art. The original building will concentrate on British painting from 1500.

The most popular painting, judging by postcard sales, is Sir John Millais' *Ophelia*, closely followed by J.M.W. Turner's *The Lady of Shalott*. The Turner bequest is also hugely popular; his landscape *Norham Castle* is the clear winner in Turner postcard sales.

Mondrian show, page 18
Leading article, page 21

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مكتبة الامن الاحل

Sewer rats lead way to Alzheimer hope

Ian Murray explains how the homing instinct of rodents in the dark throws light on the human brain

A RAT'S ability to find its way home through pitch-dark sewers could help to disclose why human memory fails as Alzheimer's disease progresses.

Laboratory mazes have been set up to study the way a sewer rat builds up a mental map of its route. A study published today by the Medical Research Council shows that Alzheimer's typically attacks that part of the brain called the hippocampus, which governs memory of where we are. Each place we visit is logged by its own nerve cell in the hippocampus and

these cells are activated only when we visit that area.

Dr John O'Keefe, professor of cognitive neuroscience at University College London, writes that these nerve cells provide the rat with what amounts to a map, which it uses to navigate to a goal or to avoid dangerous places. Studies show that the activity of just 130 of the half million cells in a rat's hippocampus are enough for it to locate its position in a test box

to an accuracy of one centimetre in one second.

Experimental techniques for studying the hippocampus make it possible to unravel the cellular changes that occur when human memory fails. "We can test disruptions in the brain communications system vital to learning and memory at two levels at once," Dr O'Keefe writes.

"We can do this at the behavioural level, using the water

maze test, and at the cellular level by observing alterations in the activity of place cells. This will allow us to develop tools for testing the various models of disorders affecting the brain, such as Alzheimer's disease.

"Ultimately this could help in devising treatments or techniques to compensate for losses in the brain's sophisticated spatial capabilities."

For a rat to work out where it is

in a test box, its place cells have to compute how far away it is from two walls sited opposite each other. To do this, the rat has to know which way it is facing. This is discovered with the help of a different nerve cell, located in parts of the brain surrounding the hippocampus, which specialise in information about orientation.

Each of these special cells has its own preferred direction and becomes active only when the animal

is facing that way. These direction cells react to landmarks but if none is visible the rat can update its sense of direction by relying on internal cues, such as those in the balance organs of the inner ear.

First the rat forms a mental map of its surroundings, then identifies its location in that environment. With this information it can continually update its position to find its way. This has been tested by dropping a rat into milky water

with a submerged platform. As rats do not like water, when they discover the platform they climb onto it. They rapidly find it again when dropped back into the water. If their hippocampus is damaged they cannot do this.

Recent work shows that the hippocampus serves a similar function with humans. Brain scans of people who have learnt to find their way to simulated environments created by virtual reality have shown that this is the part of the brain involved in locating where we are.

Critic of vitamins industry to test 'magic bullet' pills

BY ANJANA AHUJA

SCIENTISTS are to take a critical look at whether vitamin and mineral supplements, regularly taken by one in three people, actually do any good.

The study is being led by a psychologist who counts himself among critics of the £280 million-a-year industry. Professor Doug Carroll said: "Many claims for these pills are based on the observation that vitamin deficiencies cause illness. But with contemporary diets, do we really need them?"

The researchers from Birmingham University are receiving almost £200,000 in sponsorship from Roche, a manufacturer of supplements, but say they will publish their findings even if they show that taking supplements confers no medical benefits at all.

About 160 healthy adult volunteers of both sexes up to the age of 60 will undertake various tests to check the bodily response to stress, including mental arithmetic, going on an exercise bike and plunging hands into ice-cold water for several minutes. These tend to induce measurable physiological changes,

such as an increase in blood pressure and the production of antibodies.

For 28 days, half the volunteers will be given a tablet containing vitamins B and C, magnesium, calcium and zinc; the other half will receive a placebo.

All the volunteers will be subjected to the same tests again. Each volunteer will earn £50 and the results will be reported in 15 months' time.

Professor Carroll said he was looking for two effects: "The first is, do these tablets make people feel any better? Do they feel less general malaise? The second is, does it induce changes in the way the body responds, such as in the cardiovascular and immune systems?"

Professor Carroll, who will be assisted by Dr Chris Ring and Gonneke Willensen, a doctoral student, says that several inconclusive studies have been conducted. "Some have suggested that supplements affect intellectual performance but that is fairly controversial."

Professor Carroll has already carried out a pilot study which suggested that taking

vitamins B and C, and calcium and magnesium, led to a slight decrease in blood pressure. "The results were indicative rather than definitive but it convinced us that it was worth a longer look," he said.

Tom Sanders, Professor of nutrition and dietetics at King's College London, insisted that there was a case for giving dietary supplements to certain people, such as the elderly, pregnant women, vegans and hospital patients, but added: "You do not turn a bad diet into a good one merely by taking a handful of pills." He also pointed out that certain vitamins, such as vitamin A and B6, were harmful if taken in excess.

Professor Sanders would like to see more research in the vitamin industry but harbours some reservations about the Birmingham trial. He said: "I am not sure that four weeks is long enough, and there are many well-documented situations which can cause changes in blood pressure."

"I do prescribe multivitamins in some circumstances but I don't think this 'magic bullet' approach really advances science."



Professor Doug Carroll, who is leading the research at Birmingham University

Watchdog finds health claims hard to swallow

BY ROBIN YOUNG

COMPANIES selling vitamin and diet supplements are avoiding the law in their claims about health benefits, according to the Food Commission, an independent consumer organisation campaigning for safer food. A report published today says that dietary supplements are regulated simply as foodstuffs, while they are often marketed as if they were medicines.

The commission examined the labels, leaflets and press releases distributed by manufacturers, importers and retailers of dietary supplements. Out of 314 supplements which included vitamins, minerals, fish oils, amino acids, enzymes, algae, herbal remedies and slimming aids, a total of 741 health claims were advanced.

The report, summarised in the commission's publication *The Food Magazine*, points out that any claim that a product can cure, treat or prevent a disease is generally regarded as a medicinal claim and should be made only where the product has a medicines licence. Other companies imply a health benefit without making a specific medicinal claim under the Medicines Act. The report

quotes claims for Ultimate Nutrition's Aloe Vera Juice, described as "a drink for ulcers... diabetes... heart and glandular problems", while Tigon Biocare's Olive Leaf Extract is claimed to be "a natural treatment option for malaria, herpes, HIV, encephalitis, hepatitis..."

A spokesman for the Department of Health's Medicines Control Agency said yesterday: "Claims that a food supplement can prevent, treat or cure a disease are illegal unless the product has a licence proving that it can do what is claimed, and that it is safe to use, but there is a burgeoning market in health foods and alternative medicines where many claims fall in a grey area and are difficult to police."

An industry spokesman said: "Many of these products are based on herbal remedies which have been in use for centuries and have long-established reputations. In most cases, manufacturers are not suggesting that these products are medicines, only pointing out that they are healthy additions to the diet." □ **Food Supplement Claims.** Viv Stein (The Food Commission, 5/11 Worship Street, London EC2A 2BH; £125)

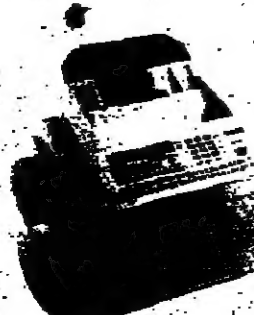
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Private scheme to help jobless falters in US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S most successful private welfare-to-work programme is scaling back its recruitment of hard-core cases among the homeless, drug addicted and criminal.

The decision is a blow to those, led by President Clinton, who hoped the private sector would shoulder much of the burden of a new law aimed at reducing the welfare rolls from four million adults to 800,000 in five years.

Marriott International Inc has abandoned an experiment it tried in Washington last autumn of placing only homeless welfare recipients in two of its pioneer job-training courses known as *Pathways to Independence*. In future, the hotel chain said, it would have four or five homeless people in a class of 20 — or perhaps even fewer.

"Their problems made really heavy demands on our training staff," said Janet Tully, the programme director, yesterday. "These were people who had been on welfare for ten years. Many had never worked, and they needed a lot of attention."

Most were women. All were black. None had a credit card or bank account. One had done time for manslaughter; another had worked as a prostitute for drug money. In one class tracked down by *The Times*, 65 applicants were whittled down to 21, of whom five then failed drug tests. Of the remaining 16, only 12 completed the course, some barely.

At a graduation banquet paid for by Marriott, all expressed enormous enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to break free at last from reliance on public assistance. One woman in a bright orange dress led her class-mates, Marriott executives, families and welfare caseworkers in chanting Jesse Jackson's famous mantra: "I am Somebody."

Of the dozen, only seven are working today, mostly as Marriott chambermaids. The orange-dressed woman returned to a man who had battered her, held two jobs briefly, and was finally sacked after announcing that she could only work at weekends.

In the other experimental class, only six have jobs.

The trainees were plagued with baby-sitting problems created by troubled children, domestic violence, drug abuse, recurring illnesses, housing and transport.

Their intensely dedicated trainer, Christa Richardson, lent them money, turned a blind eye to lateness and combed Washington's grim homeless shelters in search of class members who had vanished.

Marriott realised that working with the worst cases meant becoming a social service agency and was not prepared to make such a commitment. Each trainee costs Marriott \$5,000 (£3,000), of which 60 per cent was paid by the Government.

Hard-core cases aside, the programme is a success, with 77 per cent of *Pathways* participants still at work after a year. The programme has caught the eye of the British Government, which based its welfare-to-work plans in the budget in part on studies of America's experience.

Soap courts bigger ratings

Rio de Janeiro: Iona Staller, right, the pornographic film star and former MP in Italy, is to perform in a Brazilian television soap opera which has 100 million viewers (Gabriella Gamitl writes).

The bleached-blond actress, better known as Cicciolina, had a part as a deviant courtesan. Invented for her in the soap opera *Nica da Silva*, a colonial-era saga, to boost its ratings.

In the past, Adriane Galisteu, the girlfriend of Brazil's late Formula One driver, Ayrton Senna, has appeared in the show.



The changing face of America: an idealised Saturday Evening Post image of the 1950s, and a more modern reality

The death of Main Street, USA

OUTSIDE Woolworths on the corner of 14th Street and Irving, a lone concrete store surrounded by vacant lots and broken windows in the decaying north of Washington DC, drug dealers begin parking along the pavement in the late afternoon.

A couple of young black men push open the doors which are plastered with warnings that "Shoplifting is a crime — we prosecute" to escape from the 38C heat and buy cold drinks. Five security guards watch them listlessly but are preoccupied with the closure of the Woolworths chain throughout America. "December, we'll be out. I heard," one says.

Six miles away at Tysons Corner, the flagship of the shopping malls which have colonised the affluent suburbs, the Woolworths store is equally empty. Cruelly, its slot

The migration of America's middle classes to the suburbs killed the Woolworths chain, writes Bronwen Maddox



in the mall is next to Bloomingdales, the department store that is a byword for New York style. From Bloomingdales comes a whiff of Calvin Klein fragrance; from Woolworths, an old-fashioned chemical smell of boiled sweets and acrylic clothes.

Both shops are lessons in why Woolworths failed after 117 years, squeezed out as American shopping went through a revolution. Above all, the death of Woolworths is the story of the death of American cities and Main Street, and of the growth of the

blow came from the craze for discount stores and shopping clubs.

Looking through a Woolworth shop, the mystery is that the chain kept going so long. Bras in size 44D accurately match the size of the few aimless customers, but the miniskirts do not, nor are the neat khaki men's shorts with plastic belt likely to appeal to the high-fashion black teenagers lounging outside.

In Tysons Corner, at the opposite end of the Washington social scale, exactly the same goods are displayed, albeit with more effort, gigantic lingerie delicately pinned to display boards as if it was Janet Fagan.

A sign at the entrance begs: "Pardon our Dust — Excuse Us While We Renovate Our Store". As Woolworths acknowledged last week, that effort was too little, too late.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Eight die in Kabul jet raid

Kabul: An anti-Taliban jet fighter dropped two bombs on the Afghan capital yesterday killing eight people, including three children. A dozen others were injured.

The bombing came just hours after opposition forces claimed to have recaptured a strategic air base and town north of the capital. General Ahmed Shah Massoud, a former military chief, said his troops took control of Baghrian air base and Charikar, both north of Kabul. (AP)

Ministers saved

Harare: Armed Zimbabwean police rescued three Cabinet members, including Mwenemahachi, the Defence Minister, from war veterans demanding victims' compensation, the official Zina news agency reported. The payments stopped in March to "help" investigations into allegations of fraud. (Reuters)

Cousteau role

Paris: Sir Peter Blake, the New Zealand yachtsman, will lead the Cousteau team in two years' time — after leading his country's defence of the America's Cup — to carry on the work of the late French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the Cousteau Society said. (Reuters)

Girl burned

Cebu, Philippines: A Filipino doused his daughter with fuel and set her on fire here after she arrived home late from a night party with friends, the Freeman newspaper reported. The girl, aged 15, is in hospital with third-degree burns. (AFP)

Facing the music

Abu Dhabi: A Bangladeshi arrested for trespassing in the United Arab Emirates said he climbed over a wall and entered a house because he loved the music coming from inside. (AFP)

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Police smash New York slave ring

Mexican deaf mutes beaten and forced to work for gang

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

POLICE have broken up a "slave ring" which forced scores of deaf Mexican immigrants to peddle trinkets across New York, subjecting them to beatings, starvation and sexual abuse, after four of the immigrants escaped and told their tale in sign language.

The escapees went into a police station in Queens at 5am on Saturday, grunting, gesturing and waving their arms. As three cops, the fourth, who was modestly literate, wrote a note in Spanish asking police to rescue their friends from a house nearby. The officers went to the house, which the escapees called *la jaula*, "the cage", on 93rd Street in the Hispanic immigrant area of Jackson Heights. There they found 40 people crammed into an area built for a family of six. At another house nearby, they found 18 more.

The slave workers' method was simple (Tunku Varadarajan writes). As I waited at John F. Kennedy Airport last week, a Hispanic child pressed a pen and a note into my hand. "I am deaf and mute," the note said. "Please help me by making a voluntary contribution of \$1, for which you will receive a token item." Not realising that I was lining the pockets of slavemasters, I obliged.

received a portion of floor to sleep on and one frugal meal a day. They were kept in check by constant beatings, sexual molestation and threats of deportation and harm to their families in Mexico. Their documents were held by their bosses, and none of them knew any English.

Yesterday, police arrested the "slavemasters", including a 37-year-old man, alleged to be the leader of the racket. He has been charged with unlawful imprisonment, kidnapping, assault, theft and rape. Police who broke into his home found rooms filled with sacks stuffed with the peddlers' takings.

Many neighbours were yesterday helping the police with their inquiries. The "slaves" were known in the area as *los muditos* — "the little deaf ones" — and were a familiar sight. Yet no one seems to have realised that the houses in which they lived had so many people crammed into them.

The operation was sophisticated, with "minders" ensuring that the "slaves" left for work in a trickle, so as to attract no attention to themselves. Members of the same family were not allowed to work outside at once: this



A New York police van carries two of the Mexicans away from "the cage" where they were kept in squalor

ensured that a pedlar always had reason to return to the house. Neighbours, nonetheless, sensed that something was amiss. Women could often be seen to run crying through the house. The men

frequently made loud guttural sounds, akin to muffled screams. Children cried ceaselessly at night, but their parents could not hear them. Yet local residents were loath to get involved because many do

not have correct immigration papers. Yesterday Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, described the case as "very disgusting and horrible". A number of people lived in

"virtual slavery" in the city, he said, and "no one at all knew about it". A spokesman for the city authorities said: "It is a sad, sad tale. These deaf people were drawn here by the siren song of opportunity".

Air traffic women may sue over 'sex gibes'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

TWO women air traffic controllers have threatened a class-action suit against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) alleging systematic sexual harassment by male colleagues "for decades".

The women allege that the control towers in which they work are hotbeds of hostility, anonymous threats, vulgar commentary and vandalism. Hundreds of other women who claim to have been ill-treated have indicated that they could also sue.

Jan Gonzales, who works at the John Wayne Airport tower in Orange County, California, and Linda Owens, a controller at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, allege that the FAA has turned a blind eye to rampant abuse and molestation. They have filed an internal class-action complaint, which their lawyers say is a formal prelude to action in the courts.

Ms Gonzales says that she is greeted with a chorus of "Chick alert! Chick alert!" each time she enters the tower. Supervisors, she says, remain silent. Ms Owens claims that the harassment is particularly intense when she monitors planes landing and taking off, with every attempt made to distract her attention.

Women are a distinct minority in the male-majority world of the air control tower. Only 15 per cent of the FAA's 22,718 air traffic controllers are female, as against 46 per cent in the American workforce as a whole. The FAA's record in the area of complaints is equally undistinguished. The office has received 397 complaints from women this year alone, on matters ranging from sexual harassment to alleged lack of promotion because of gender.

Ms Gonzales and Ms Owens are demanding damages of \$300,000 (£180,000) for each incident of "discrimination, harassment or reprisal for every class member". A class member is defined as any woman who works as an air traffic controller. There are 3,406 of them across America.

Mir crew spared ordeal of risky repairs in space

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

THE tired crew of the disabled Mir Russian space station are expected to return to Earth, leaving their replacements to carry out risky repairs to the orbiter's power supply.

The Russian-American crew carried out repairs yesterday to make Mir more stable and were then given the rest of the day off. Despite this success, Russian space officials were expected to announce today that more important and risky work to fix the power supply, which was damaged in a collision on June 25, will be carried out by a crew due to arrive on Mir on August 7.

Restoring the power will require entering the airless module and working in spacesuits for several hours. If the operation goes wrong, the crew may have to abandon ship. "I think it is better for us not to propose to this crew that they go out into open space as there is only a little time until the next expedition" and the lads are tired, Vladimir Solovoyov, the mission director, said at the weekend. "They have been through a lot, something which has a serious effect on a person's psychology," he said.

Vasily Tsibilyev, Mir's commander, Aleksandr Lazutkin, the flight engineer, and Michael Foale, the British-born NASA physicist, have been

dogged by problems. About half of Mir's power was lost during the collision which punctured a module attached to the space station. Problems have continued since the collision. An unidentified liquid leaked into space; tests showed that Commander Tsibilyev had an irregular heartbeat; and one of the crew caused a computer to crash last Thursday, plunging the craft into darkness and leaving it spinning in space. The computer was fixed on Friday.

Commander Tsibilyev and Mr Lazutkin, 39, are scheduled to return to Earth on August 26, with Dr Foale, 40, following on an American space shuttle in September.

'Miracle' of Liberia elections

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MONROVIA: International observers yesterday described Liberia's peaceful presidential elections as nothing short of a miracle, with an estimated 80 per cent of the electorate casting ballots to end seven years of civil war. "I think this is almost a miracle... almost unprecedented on a global basis," said the former US President Jimmy Carter, who led a delegation of observers.

Warlord Charles Taylor, and former UN official Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf were considered the front-runners in a field of a dozen candidates. Final results may take several days (AP)

Jones hires spin doctor

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAULA JONES, who accuses President Clinton of sexual harassment, has chosen a Los Angeles activist, Susan Carpenter-McMillan, to tell her side of the story and to be chairman of fundraising to pay her legal costs.

"I'm going to put a human face on an American hero," said Mrs Carpenter-McMillan, who was introduced to Mrs Jones three years ago in California and has since become an ally. "I want to go out there and shut their lying mouths and let people know my friend Paula."

Mrs Carpenter-McMillan, renowned for her caustic comments and quick wit, describes herself as a conservative feminist. Married to a wealthy



Jones: new advocate is "conservative feminist"

lawyer, she is an outspoken commentator on Los Angeles television and writes regular right-wing columns for the *Los Angeles Times*. She expressed anger at slurs on Mrs Jones's character and

the sneering implication that she was "trailer park trash" made by James Carville, the irreverent Southern "good ol' boy" who helped Mr Clinton win the White House. She said: "I get crazed at what they do to Paula, and what she puts up with."

She praised Mrs Jones for just walking away when Mr Clinton allegedly exposed himself to her, saying that if anyone had done that to her she would have kicked him in the groin. Mr Clinton "adamantly" denies propositioning Mrs Jones.

Mr Carville and Mrs Carpenter-McMillan are expected to meet this week on CNN for the television equivalent of a shoot-out. "I feel like a lamb going to the slaughter," she said, with mock humility.

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16 1920p Monitor	£310.00	£620.00
16 1984p Monitor	£320.00	£640.00
16 2048p Monitor	£330.00	£660.00
16 2112p Monitor	£340.00	£680.00
16 2176p Monitor	£350.00	£700.00
16 2240p Monitor	£360.00	£720.00
16 2304p Monitor	£370.00	£740.00
16 2368p Monitor	£380.00	£760.00
16 2432p Monitor	£390.00	£780.00
16 2496p Monitor	£400.00	£800.00
16 2560p Monitor	£410.00	£820.00
16 2624p Monitor	£420.00	£840.00
16 2688p Monitor	£430.00	£860.00
16 2752p Monitor	£440.00	£880.00
16 2816p Monitor	£450.00	£900.00
16 2880p Monitor	£460.00	£920.00
16 2944p Monitor	£470.00	£940.00
16 3008p Monitor	£480.00	£960.00
16 3072p Monitor	£490.00	£980.00
16 3136p Monitor	£500.00	£1000.00
16 3200p Monitor	£510.00	£1020.00
16 3264p Monitor	£520.00	£1040.00
16 3328p Monitor	£530.00	£1060.00
16 3392p Monitor	£540.00	£1080.00
16 3456p Monitor	£550.00	£1100.00
16 3520p Monitor	£560.00	£1120.00
16 3584p Monitor	£570.00	£1140.00
16 3648p Monitor	£580.00	£1160.00
16 3712p Monitor	£590.00	£1180.00
16 3776p Monitor	£600.00	£1200.00
16 3840p Monitor	£610.00	£1220.00
16 3904p Monitor	£620.00	£1240.00
16 3968p Monitor	£630.00	£1260.00
16 4032p Monitor	£640.00	£1280.00
16 4096p Monitor	£650.00	£1300.00
16 4160p Monitor	£660.00	£1320.00
16 4224p Monitor	£670.00	£1340.00
16 4288p Monitor	£680.00	£1360.00
16 4352p Monitor	£690.00	£1380.00
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16 4480p Monitor	£710.00	£1420.00
16 4544p Monitor	£720.00	£1440.00
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16 4672p Monitor	£740.00	£1480.00
16 4736p Monitor	£750.00	£1500.00
16 4800p Monitor	£760.00	£1520.00
16 4864p Monitor	£770.00	£1540.00
16 4928p Monitor	£780.00	£1560.00
16 4992p Monitor	£790.00	£1580.00
16 5056p Monitor	£800.00	£1600.00
16 5120p Monitor	£810.00	£1620.00
16 5184p Monitor	£820.00	£1640.00
16 5248p Monitor	£830.00	£1660.00
16 5312p Monitor	£840.00	£1680.00
16 5376p Monitor	£850.00	£1700.00
16 5440p Monitor	£860.00	£1720.00
16 5504p Monitor	£870.00	£1740.00
16 5568p Monitor	£880.00	£1760.00
16 5632p Monitor	£890.00	£1780.00
16 5696p Monitor	£900.00	£1800.00
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16 5824p Monitor	£920.00	£1840.00
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16 5952p Monitor	£940.00	£1880.00
16 6016p Monitor	£950.00	£1900.00
16 6080p Monitor	£960.00	£1920.00
16 6144p Monitor	£970.00	£1940.00
16 6208p Monitor	£980.00	£1960.00
16 6272p Monitor	£990.00	£1980.00
16 6336p Monitor	£1000.00	£2000.00
16 6400p Monitor	£1010.00	£2020.00
16 6464p Monitor	£1020.00	£2040.00
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16 6592p Monitor	£1040.00	£2080.00
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16 6912p Monitor	£1090.00	£2180.00
16 6976p Monitor	£1100.00	£2200.00
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16 9984p Monitor	£1570.00	£3140.00
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16 10112p Monitor	£1590.00	£3180.00
16 10176p Monitor	£1600.00	£3200.00
16 10240p Monitor	£1610.00	£3220.00

Howe in furious attack on Patten 'betrayal'

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

VIGOROUSLY defending himself against charges of betrayal over Hong Kong, Lord Howe of Aberavon yesterday blamed Chris Patten for changing course and John Major's government for giving him carte blanche to do so.

In a searing review of Jonathan Dimbleby's "lamentable" book *The Last Governor*, Lord Howe — who was Foreign Secretary from 1983 to 1989 — denounced the "surreal and unjust accusations of treachery and foul play by senior government ministers and civil servants".

"My anger at such baseless allegations is tempered by the sadness of my belief that such hostilities could well have been avoided — to the great advantage of Hong Kong itself — if only Patten had stuck to his original view."

He said that the chilly handover ceremonies destroyed the last hope of continuity of democratic structures between British and Chinese Hong Kong. He insisted, in a review published in *The Sunday Times*, that he had spent months in the toughest consultation with the Chinese to transform Deng Xiaoping's formula of "one country, two systems" into the Joint Declaration. His successor, Douglas Hurd, had a long correspondence with Qian Qichen, insisting that Britain attached great importance to re-establishing an atmosphere of mutual trust and recognising the

advantage of continuity. "Astonishingly, against this background, Patten was allowed, within three months of arrival, to propose, publicly and with only the most perfunctory prior consultation with the Chinese, far-reaching changes for Hong Kong's legislative council," Lord Howe said.

Lord Howe dismissed as unjustified Mr Dimbleby's central charge that the 1987 review of public opinion in Hong Kong was rigged, with Britain and China agreeing in advance that there would be no direct elections in 1988. He said he himself explained to Mr Qian that there could be no question of an advance understanding.

His review reveals his fury at what he regards as betrayal by Mr Patten, who he says is ready now "to question the motives of almost all but himself". Legitimate differences of judgment had been transformed into plot and counter-plot. He said he had been "distressed" by the risks Mr Patten was taking with the negotiating process but had muted his criticism. Mr Patten even wrote to him a year ago thanking him for "your careful reticence... whatever your private doubts."

Mr Patten, he said, would now have to settle for applause only from "a lot of Americans and others who take a highly moralistic view of global issues".

Last gasp for the age of steam in India

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA has sent the last batch of its steam trains to the scrapyard. All that remains of 150 years of steam locomotion are a few shunters on their last gasp in rural backwaters in Gujarat and some "toy trains" struggling up to the old British hill stations of Darjeeling and Ooty.

Their passing is unmourned, indeed almost unnoticed. Saving the last two steam routes reveals, nevertheless, a hint of nostalgia among the bureaucrats at Railways Bhavan, the Indian Railways headquarters in Delhi, who have overseen the destruction of one of the world's greatest steam fleets.

Ooty and Darjeeling, along with their more famous sister hill station, Simla, were beloved by the British. Snooty Ooty, as detractors were wont to call it, remains a rarefied preserve of retired Britons

who never went home at independence in 1947. The narrow-gauge tracks to these and other cool retreats remain as a tribute to the engineers and workmen who laid them in defiance of animals and pestilence.

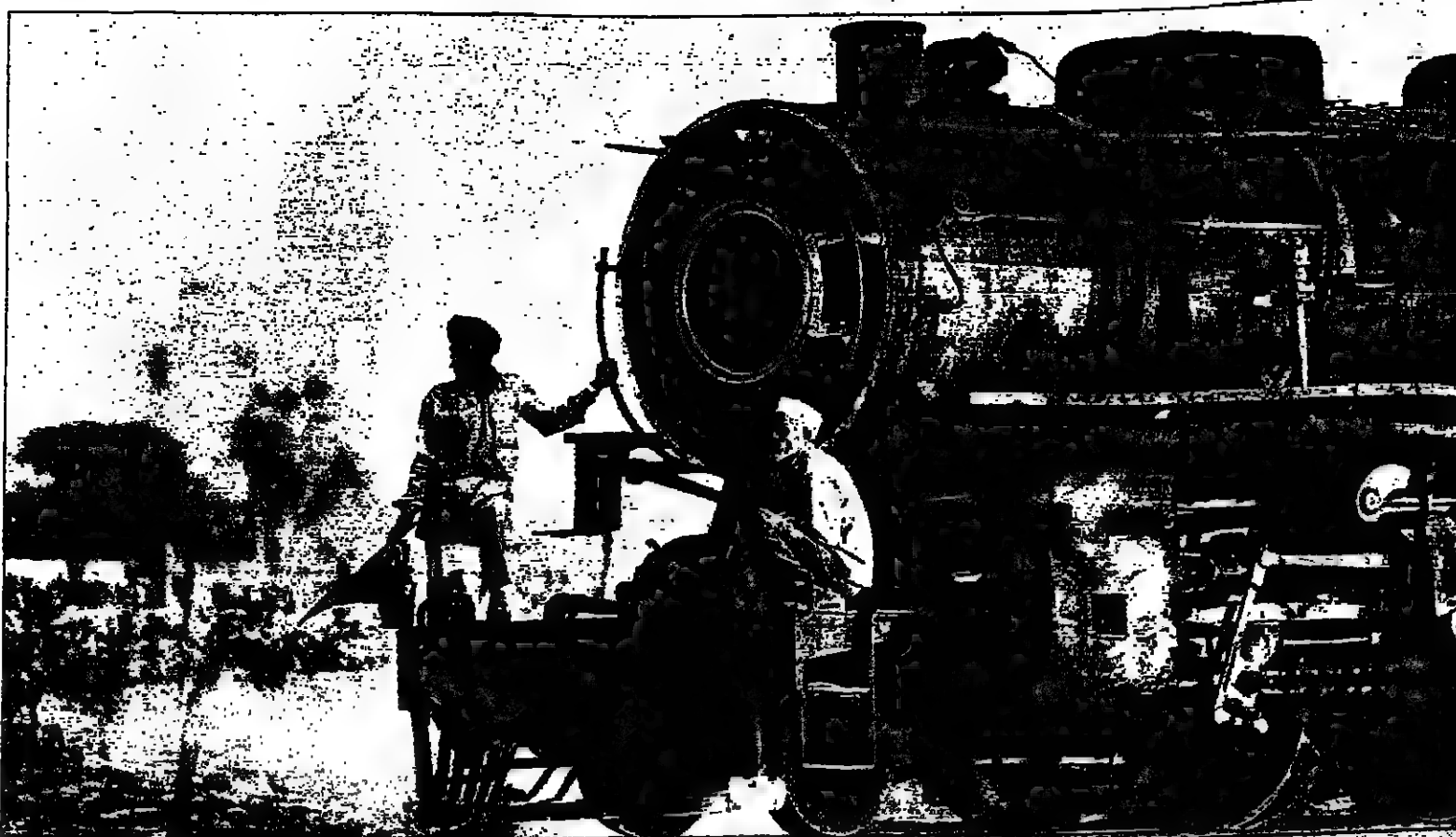
Before trains, the journey out of the heat of the plains was a trek of staggering complexity and effort. Virtually the entire Raj, files and all, swayed by bullock cart to Simla for seven months of the year to what became a little

England, complete with church spires, a bandbox, theatre and, vitally and inevitably, a club for the sahibs and meenahabs. The little trains to Simla have long since succumbed to diesel. But Darjeeling and Ooty will be

served by steam locomotives for at least three more years, when their future will be reviewed.

Steam enthusiasts lament the introduction of diesel engines on the track to Simla, queen of hill stations, leaving

Ooty and Darjeeling alone to carry the burden of nostalgia. None of the services to the former hill stations makes money, but they just might if more tourists can be tempted to ride them: they survive only because of this faint hope.



Shunted into oblivion: the latest batch of India's steam locomotives to be sent to the scrapyard brings 150 years of railway history to an end

Candid Australia peeves neighbours

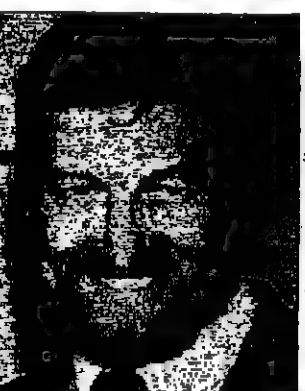
FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Government was in urgent damage-control mode last night after a scathing briefing document on its South Pacific neighbours was made public. The report, with its warnings of economic collapse in some island nations, also discusses corruption among top politicians and their drinking habits.

"Mismanagement is hurting, with the Solomon Islands, Nauru and the Cook Islands on the brink of insolvency," it claims. One minister was nicknamed "Mr Ten Per Cent" and another portrayed as incompetent. The 93-page document also states whether ministers become mellow or



Downer, left. Mamaloni, described as an obstacle to economic reform, and Evans



belligerent when drunk. The report accuses many island nations of being unwilling to undertake economic reform, and suggests their growing

problems threaten Australia's regional interests. The document, marked "ALUSTEO" (Australian Eyes Only), was left on a table after a meeting

between government officials and Pacific economic ministers in Cairns, north Queensland, last week. It was picked up by a reporter, who as-

sumed it had been left out for general release.

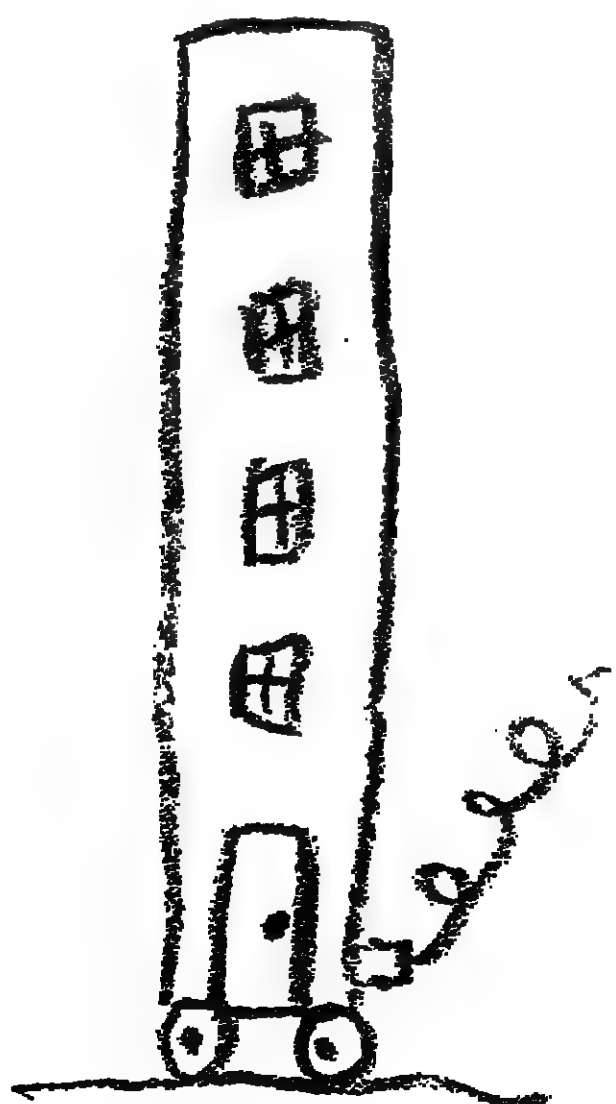
Last night, Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, said: "Such briefing material is not... an expression of the Government's views". But Gareth Evans, the acting Opposition leader, said it was "the daddy of all security breaches: 15 countries offended in one go".

Several leaders attacked the report, with President Clodumar of Nauru describing it as "most insulting and patronising". Solomon Mamaloni, the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, who was described in the report as an obstacle to reform, said South Pacific nations would now be "suspicious of what Australia gets up to".

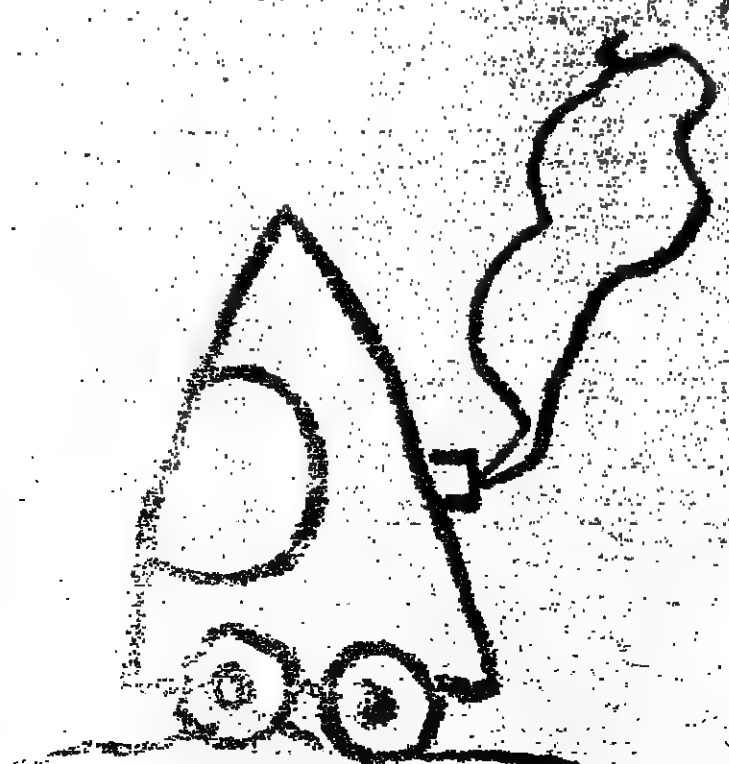
Sicilian Mafia wife held

Palermo: Police arrested a woman leader of one of the most dangerous clans of the Sicilian Mafia, police said here yesterday. The arrest of Giuseppina Sansone, 43, marks a turning point in the history of the Cosa Nostra which, previously refused to admit women.

Police said Sansone took over the task of leading the branch of Cosa Nostra from her husband Francesco Lagliavia, currently in jail. They say she led drug trafficking and extortion rackets in Sicily and set up a code to communicate with her jailed husband. (AFP)



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Isolated Bosnian Serb leader 'may seek UK asylum'

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

BILIANA PLAVSIC, the Bosnian Serb President, may seek asylum in Britain when her power struggle with the hardline clique of Radovan Karadzic, the indicted war crimes suspect, is over.

Loyalists of Dr Karadzic yesterday expelled Mrs Plavsic from the ruling Serbian Democratic Party, although she is determined to fight on against the widespread corruption that has bankrupted her state.

But yesterday's Bosnian Croat newspaper, *Hrvatska Rijec*, cited an American diplomatic source who believes she may flee to Britain even if she defeats the Karadzic camp.

Journalists on the paper claim to have seen an application by Mrs Plavsic for asylum, and say her recent visit to Britain confirmed her close ties with the exiled Serbian Royal Family in London and the Orthodox community in Birmingham. The US source told *Hrvatska Rijec* that ideally Mrs Plavsic would leave Republika Srpska once Dr Karadzic had been arrested. She would be encouraged into exile both for her own safety and to allow more moderate forces to gain a foothold in the republic.

Given the near-hysterical state of the media in Bosnia, most reporting of the Karadzic-Plavsic showdown has to be taken with a pinch of salt. But two things are certain — Mrs Plavsic further cemented her ties with the Serbian Orthodox community in Britain during a visit last month, and her life is threatened by Dr Karadzic's extensive police network. "The poor soul seems to have no place in this world and we must help her as much as we can," said the Very Rev Milenko Zebic, the Episcopal Vicar of the Serbian Orthodox Church for Great Britain and Scandinavia, whose church is in Bourne-

ville. "She would always be welcome in the congregation. She is an extremely honest and profound Orthodox Christian," he said.

The trip, which coincided with the most important day of the Serb calendar, June 28 and the celebration of the battle of Kosovo, brought Mrs Plavsic's struggle into the media limelight. She had problems entering Britain, being detained at Heathrow for nearly two hours, and then had to cut short her visit as Karadzic loyalists tried to reinstate Dragan Kijac, the Interior Minister, whom she had sacked.

On landing at Belgrade airport in Serbia, she was promptly arrested by President Milosevic's police, and since her release Mrs Plavsic has kept to western Republika Srpska, the only territory where she is relatively safe. British diplomatic sources yesterday denied any knowledge of Mrs Plavsic's asylum application, adding only that she would have no future difficulties with immigration control as long as her visa were valid.

Those who met her in Birmingham, where she ate with about 30 Serbs at a Greek restaurant, strongly sympathised with Mrs Plavsic. "We

were very impressed by her. She has good ideas and a very pragmatic attitude," said one source close to the Royal Court of Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia, the London-based heir.

Mrs Plavsic is 67 and divorced from her husband, who lives in Sarajevo. The couple had no children and she has few family ties to keep her in Bosnia. Friends say that her one aim is to create a pure Orthodox Serb state, free of the corruption associated with Dr Karadzic and his fellow war profiteers. The split with her former mentor has been made final now that she has publicly declared that Dr Karadzic should be arrested — although not for trial at The Hague war crimes tribunal, but in Republika Srpska.

Hrvatska Rijec also alleges that SAS troops apprehended four gunmen sent by Dr Karadzic to assassinate Mrs Plavsic in her stronghold of Banja Luka this month. The paper says they were handed over to Mrs Plavsic's bodyguard, who then arrested 30 more police loyal to Dr Karadzic. Nato sources have admitted only that British troops surrounded Mrs Plavsic's presidency building on the night she appealed for help after her return from Belgrade.

□ Zagreb: A lawyer for a Bosnian Croat general indicted by the war crimes tribunal has challenged its demand for state evidence from Croatia. The tribunal has now set August 18 as the deadline for Croatia to provide information about General Tihomir Blaskic. Croatia has refused to comply, citing national security reasons.

Anto Nobilo, head of the general's legal team, said that the request was illegal and made "in contradiction to the prevalent opinion of most legal experts". (Reuters)



Plavsic close ties with community in Britain

Flooded rivers threaten 20,000 Germans

BY DEBORAH COLLCUTT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 20,000 Germans living along the Polish border face evacuation today if record water levels continue to rise.

German authorities were keeping a nervous watch on strained river defences with a 500-strong team monitoring dykes along a 270-mile stretch of the border rivers Oder and Neisse. They are already severely weakened after three days of containing floodwaters flowing from Poland, and heavy rainfall over the eastern state of Brandenburg.

Flooding has caused billions of pounds of damage to towns and farm land, mostly in the Czech Republic and Poland. More than 250,000 acres of crops in some of the most fertile areas of the Czech Republic have been destroyed. Yesterday a state of emergency was declared in two eastern Czech towns, and civil defence officials said nearly 9,000 people were evacuated as a precaution in the northeast as more rain added to the worst flooding in centuries.

Nearly 100 people have been killed in the region, including 48 in Poland and 46 in the Czech Republic. Josef Lut, the Czech Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that another 2,500 people had been injured and 10,000 were homeless.

On the German border, water levels rose at an average of one centimetre an hour at times over the weekend, and in Frankfurt an der Oder, the largest border town in Brandenburg, they exceeded the record high of 1930. Low-lying land in the area and parts of Frankfurt's old town, cellars and streets remained flooded. Meteorologists forecast further rain there and in the Czech Republic.

More than 35,000 German police, firefighters and soldiers stood by in case of mass evacuations. Tourists and spectators who arrived in their



A cyclist struggles across a street in Frankfurt flooded by the swollen Oder river

droves to watch preparations were ordered to leave. In Potsdam, authorities accused the visitors of "sensation-seeking" and putting lives in danger by trampling over the sodden sandbags that hold back swollen rivers.

Manfred Stolpe, the Brandenburg prime minister, visited the stricken area at the weekend and called on rescue services and volunteers not to give in. "We still have the hardest days ahead of us," he said. "The banks could still burst." Weather experts predict it will be at least two

weeks before flood levels begin to fall. However, Poland's central crisis committee said there was little chance that the chaos of the past two weeks would be repeated, as the rain

Bibione: Forty people were injured when a whirlwind swept through this Italian beach resort near Venice yesterday, uprooting trees and driving boats out to sea. Most of those injured were holidaymakers sleeping at camp sites or in boats. (Reuters)

was not as heavy as first feared and endangered communities were now better prepared.

Danube shipping was suspended in Austria yesterday after days of torrential rain. The river, which flows from the Alps to the Black Sea, was closed to traffic along a 50-mile stretch between Linz and Krems, state television said. Border crossings between Germany and Poland and the Czech Republic remained closed in Brandenburg, which caused long delays for lorry drivers.

Storm blows over for missing sailors

BY DEBORAH COLLCUTT

A GERMAN couple, who were feared dead after their yacht was found by the Royal Navy abandoned in the Bermuda Triangle, are safe and well, nearly a year after they had given it up for stolen and returned home.

Ralf Schilling, 33, and his wife, Britta, 31, were oblivious to the excitement caused by the discovery of the yacht until they were contacted by journalists. "We had such a shock, we had no idea," said Frau Schilling from their home near Düsseldorf.

The Schillings, who had intended to sail around the world, believed the yacht was stolen last September while they were ashore in the Canary Islands. "We visited some friends in the Canaries, where we moored the boat," Frau Schilling said. "When we returned three days later, Ruth was gone."

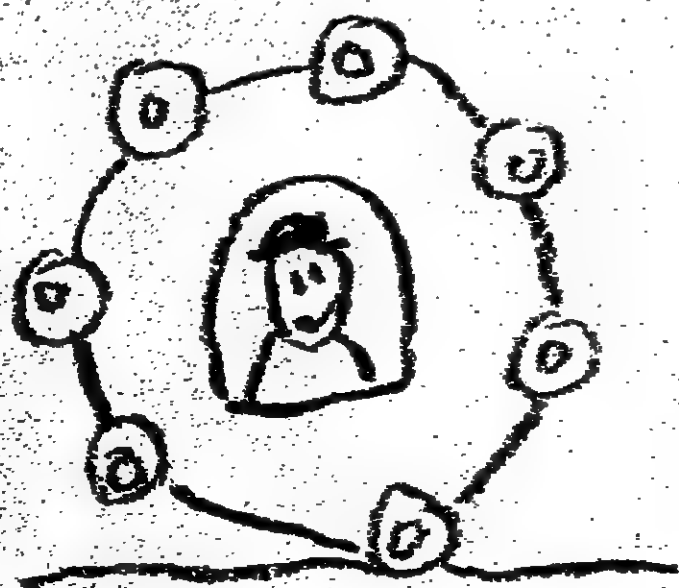
The couple, who had given up their jobs and sold their house to buy the second-hand yacht, informed the police.

"We heard nothing. We stayed there until November, but there was nothing else we could do, so we flew back to Germany," Frau Schilling said. They have registered an insurance claim for the *Ruth*.

A search began for the Schillings after HMS London, a Royal Navy frigate, found the yacht about 300 miles from Bermuda, abandoned, without sails and with mooring ropes hanging over the sides. The Schillings' passports, a wedding ring, clothes and books were strewn around the cabin.

The Schillings now want to continue their voyage. "It was our dream and to have it end like that was tragic. We'll try again, I'm sure," Frau Schilling said. The yacht has been taken to Puerto Rico. The Navy can claim salvage rights, according to the Ministry of Defence.

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Rühe confronts rocky route on power march to replace Kohl

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Striding gamely across the rugged landscape of the north German coastline this summer will be the bulky figure of Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister. This is a holiday tradition for the former English-language teacher, and he marches at a sharp clip—five miles to the hour. He calls it "power walking" and so, in a sense, it is: the moment of truth is approaching for the ambitious minister.

As the Helmut Kohl era staggers to a close, there are only two serious contenders for the succession. The first is Wolfgang Schäuble, the parliamentary leader of the

Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Sharp-tongued, intellectual, confined to a wheelchair, he in effect rules the country. Almost single-

handedly he has reinvented the CDU as a reformist party and every big deal—coalition government makes for a permanent round of poker—has been brokered by him. The parliamentary party is full square behind him, the constituencies are uncertain. His physical handicap (the was paralysed in an assassination attempt) probably counts against him, and he is too closely identified with the Chancellor's mistakes.

The alternative is Herr Rühe. For years he was tipped as a crown prince, then dropped out of view. Now, at 54, he is approaching the final stretch. He says, of course, he

is quite happy to remain Defence Minister but no one close to him doubts his hunger. His credentials are strong: German defence ministers rarely flourish (one of the few was Helmut Schmidt), but for five years he has run a difficult department with some élan.

The smooth integration of the remnants of the East German Army into the Bundeswehr, persuading Germans to accept combat missions abroad, championing Nato enlargement, adapting to the withdrawal of Russian and allied troops from Germany—these all demonstrated good instincts in domestic

politics and a sure feel for international affairs. The gruff Hamburger even managed to call the shots well on the Eurofighter. First he opposed the combat jet, then trimmed it down and finally became a robust defender of the project. Each twist in the Eurofighter debate was neatly executed. Now, against all expectations, the northern Protestant is the darling of the Catholics of Bavaria, the southern region which benefits most from Eurofighter jobs.

At the same time he has distanced himself from some of the more obvi-

ous blunders of Herr Kohl's financial managers as they try to wriggle out of a perpetual budget crisis. There is still something of the teacher about Herr Rühe, and while the manner works well with soldiers it does not go down well with the CDU rank and file.

Herr Kohl's web of local friends and allies, regularly fed with phone calls, flattery and promotions, has raised different expectations for a CDU leader. The party has to be massaged into loyalty, not barked at like idle pupils. Strangely, the Social Democrats are more ready to accept a degree of arrogance—Herr

Schmidt being a case in point—than the CDU. But Herr Rühe is vulnerable. The armed forces, strapped for cash, are in a desolate state. Spare parts are missing for lorries, helicopters, planes and weapons. Inspectors last year reckoned half of the army's vehicles could not be driven. The minister believes the answer is to squeeze more money from the Treasury. In fact, hard choices are needed and Herr Rühe has been dodging them.

To pay for the Eurofighter he has to save money. But civil servants are paying for

158 million rounds of ammunition for the new G36 automatic weapons which have not even been distributed. The Leo 2 tank is to be modernised at huge cost, yet is too heavy for Bosnian bridges. Privatising helicopter pilot training would be another way of saving cash, but again Herr Rühe is more inclined to follow departmental advice than to break through bureaucratic barriers and launch a radical reform. If Herr Rühe fails to square this circle, if the defence budget starts to unravel, then so may his chances of winning the last decisive political battle—for Herr Kohl's throne.

Jospin abandons new taxes on rich in Blairite U-turn

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Prime Minister, yesterday did a U-turn over his plans to soak the rich, abandoning his hard-left programme in a move towards a Blairite agenda marked by privatisations.

The impression was confirmed when the press reported that the Socialist-led Government had revised measures designed to reduce the budget deficit and ensure French qualification for the euro single currency.

M. Jospin was said to have dropped a proposal to impose extra taxes on high earners, but he remains committed to increasing corporation tax on profitable companies.

The rethink will have little impact on the French deficit, likely to be well above the 3 per cent ceiling for countries seeking to join economic and monetary union, which is to be made public by state auditors today.

But the gesture is symbolic since it may herald the triumph of economic reality over the Socialists' traditionally egalitarian agenda. The decision to sell the ailing GAN state insurance company is of equal significance. The Socialists appeared to rule out any

form of privatisation during a legislative election campaign in which they had pledged a renaissance of Keynesian economics.

After less than two months in office, the tune has changed. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, argues the sell-off became inevitable when the European Commis-

6 The gesture may herald the triumph of economic reality over Socialist egalitarianism

sion said it would only approve a Fr20 billion (£1.9 billion) rescue package for GAN on condition that it was denationalised.

Yet his aides admit that as they seek to reduce public expenditure in line with the Maastricht treaty they no longer have the means to prop up loss-making concerns.

Socialist embarrassment over the U-turn was illustrated by the low-key communiqué issued by the Finance

Ministry after office hours at the end of last week. It hoped that the decision would go unnoticed, but was frustrated as M. Jospin's allies responded with surprise and anger, with *Liberation* newspaper setting the tone. "The Left privatises. The words are such opposites that one could almost say they are an oxymoron."

The oxymoron is, however, set to become familiar. M. Strauss-Kahn let it be known last week that he planned to relaunch the sale of the Thomson-CSF state defence electronic giant, bringing in private shareholders and reducing the Government's stake to less than 50 per cent.

His announcement in private came days after M. Jospin had stated in public he was stopping the privatisation procedure initiated by the previous centre-right Government.

The Prime Minister's hesitant journey towards a Blairite programme was underlined when he asked a Socialist senator, Michel Delebarre, to consult the 165,000 employees of French Telecom over the future of their group.

Commentators said M. Delebarre would almost certainly be told by staff to sell a minority stake in the telecommunications giant—the very



Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, in Paris yesterday to mark the 55th anniversary of the Vel d'Hiv roundup, when police sent 13,152 Jews to Nazi death camps in one of the most blatant acts of collaboration.

proposal favoured by M. Jospin's Gaullist predecessor, Alain Juppé. If the consultation leads to a different conclusion, the Government will probably go ahead with the sale anyway. Without the Fr50 billion that the privatisa-

tion is expected to fetch, it will have trouble meeting its budgetary targets next year.

"It is impossible to envisage the future of France's Telecom without thinking international and European," said M. Delebarre. In a sign that he

will advocate an alliance with the private German Telekom. The move will be welcomed by French industry which feared a return to the "dark ages" of socialism when M. Jospin took office last month.

However, business leaders

remain unhappy about his proposal, which will be unveiled today, to raise tax on company profits to more than 40 per cent.

Popular President: The first six weeks of enforced "cohabitation" between President Chirac, a Gaullist, and M. Jospin have benefited the head of state more than his Prime Minister, an opinion poll for *Le Journal du Dimanche* showed. Forty-two per cent were happy with M. Chirac's performance, up 4 per cent on the previous month. There was a weaker increase for M. Jospin, whose popularity went up fractionally, to 48 per cent from 47 per cent a month earlier. (Reuters)

Peter Riddell, page 20

Swiss angered by BBC report on Nazis

FROM PETER CAPPELLA IN GENEVA

THE BBC's hallowed reputation in Switzerland has taken a severe knock after the screening of an *Inside Story* documentary on the country's dealings with the Nazis. The documentary, shown in the past two weeks on German language and French language Swiss television, was branded by diplomats, politicians and historians as one-sided and sensationalist.

Even critics of Switzerland's role during the Second World War were unhappy with the dramatic presentation of the case of Jewish organisations and an American lawyer handling lawsuits by Holocaust survivors against Swiss banks. It was co-produced with US, Israeli and Swiss public-broadcasters.

The programme also upset an otherwise placid central Swiss town in an unexpected manner. The cable television network in Kreuzlingen, chaired by a right-wing Swiss People's Party MP, shut down the BBC entertainment channel after a storm of protest from viewers. The local council hit back, claiming the cable network had abused its power, and ordered it to restore the corporation's satellite service.

The BBC's complaints procedure is examining a protest made by Francois Nordmann, the Swiss Ambassador, when the *Inside Story* documentary was first shown in Britain last month, saying that it exploited "a register of emotions, insinuations and calumnies, interspersed with witness accounts, which Goebbels would not have disowned". The BBC declined to take part in a debate after the screening on Swiss-French television.

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Ahmed Daqansha, in court in Amman to be sentenced to life in jail for shooting dead seven Israeli girls.

Clinton plans peace talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Clinton Administration is preparing a "package deal" to restart peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Saeb Erekat, the senior Palestinian negotiator, said yesterday in Washington.

Mr Erekat spoke after a meeting with Thomas Pickering, the American Under-Secretary of State. He would give no more details. Peace talks have been stalled since Israeli bulldozers began work on the settlement of Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem on March 18.

The disclosure coincided with reports that an Israeli army war game suggested Palestinian and Israeli casualties would be in the thousands if Israel went ahead with plans to retake areas handed over to Palestinian self-rule.

The Tel Aviv daily *Maariv* said the exercise was carried out by leading members of the security forces and politicians in secret last month. It concluded that "hundreds of Israeli soldiers would be killed and thousands wounded. The Palestinians... would suffer thousands killed." Retaking the seven West Bank cities now in Palestinian control, including Hebron and Nablus, is known to be the third and final stage of the Israeli Operation Field of Thorns, which is designed to crush any

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Of mice, muscles and Marilyn

Professor Susan Greenfield on the implications of a remarkable experiment on genetics

Imagine an experiment in which, by the wonders of molecular biology, you were able to shuffle genes around with such dexterity that you could engineer mice containing extra-ratios of either their mother's or father's genes, instead of the usual 50-50 arrangement. Would male-gene-dominated mice be adjusting tiny medallions and swaggering around the cage looking for action?

A study involving mice, performed in Cambridge by Eric Keverne and Adam Surani, has succeeded in altering the allocation of genes from one parent or the other. Of course, the resultant embryos, some of which survived the three weeks to full term, were hardly rodent counterparts of Marilyn Monroe and Genghis Khan. But the results might nonetheless provide fuel for all manner of sexist ripostes: the genetically father-favoured mice had abnormally large bodies with tiny brains, and the mice with a greater number of "mother genes" ended up with large brains inside large heads, but tiny bodies.

Does this suggest that too much maleness errs in favour of brawn over brain? Not quite. The mice brains revealed more: the distribution of actual cells containing only paternal or maternal genes. "Paternal" brain cells tended to be aggregated in the regions of the brain conventionally associated with basic instincts and emotion — the "limbic system" — and the maternal cells were found in the classical brain areas, such as the outer layer of the brain (cortex) linked to "higher" thinking-type functions, and the region just below it in the front of the brain, the "striatum", related to the control of movement.

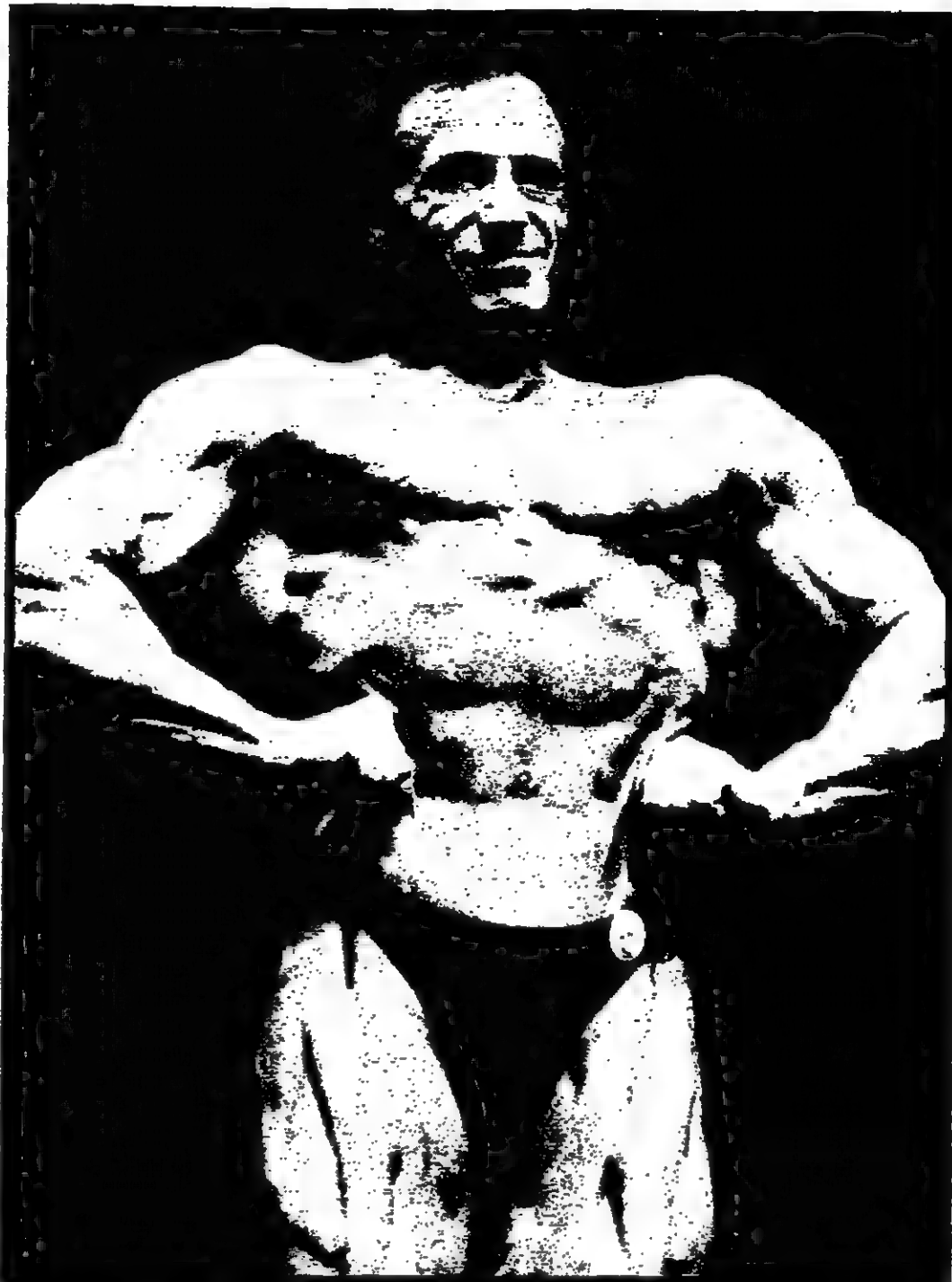
But such observations still do not prove that intelligence is a feminine attribute and emotion a masculine one. A gene donated from your mother does not come with a guarantee of femininity. And the very genre of genetic wizardry that has produced these caricature embryos has elsewhere prompted the idea that we women alone enjoy the use of a gene for intuition, which is hard to reconcile with the idea that women have excesses of cold reasoning ability. All that we might be able to say is that the propensity for

different types of mental processes would be genetically traceable to your father, others to your mother. But is even such a division, a divorce of emotions from reason, justified?

The idea of emotions and instincts from father, intelligence from mother, is based on the assumption that each process operates within one or other area of the brain, limbic system or cortex. But this tidy compartmentalisation is now being challenged. It has long been known that certain parts of the cortex, if damaged, or surgically inactivated, will result in a change in character and emotions; conversely, certain parts of the limbic system will be involved closely in the "intellectual" task of laying down memory. A more recent idea has been advanced, emphasising instead the fast processing of certain emergency information, of danger, for example, which might happen to have an emotional component, and which might be primarily routed via the limbic system.

In general, a realistic scenario is that the cortex and the limbic system work together, in dialogue. Unfortunately, our knowledge of the brain is still in its infancy. One thing, for certain, though, is that it is very hard to attribute a specific function to a specific brain region. Sure, the brain is composed of consciously different parts, but these different regions are not little autonomous brains within the brain: there is no single centre for vision (in fact, there are more than 30), nor for memory, nor for language. Neuroscientists are starting to realise that instead, each brain region is a little like an instrument in an orchestra: it has its own agenda, but works in harmony as part of an holistic system to give rise to the seemingly "simple" functions that make up our daily mental activity. All the vagaries of human character cannot be pinned down to different, independent bits of brain.

But perhaps there is another interpretation to account for the predominance of maternal cells in the "higher" centres and paternal ones in the "basic" areas. The cortex and striatum, the areas where the maternal cells were dominant, are both quite bulky: in



Brawn and beauty — the experiment showed that switching genes may change some characteristics, but there is much more involved than simple sexual stereotyping



contrast, the septum and amygdala, structures singled out for being chiefly composed of paternal cells, are relatively modest in volume. It is possible, then, that in an embryo where it is the maternal genes that appear to favour growth of the brain in general, that it is beneficial for these genes to go to work in the larger brain regions, where more cells will be needed anyway. A further sobering thought is the old nature-nurture seesaw, on

which everyone is currently elbowing for a place on the nature end. We have heard of gay genes, and criminality genes; in his novel *The Information*, Martin Amis mused on the lack of the "cleaning gene" in British women, and it seems that we are not far off actually offering that as a plausible excuse for a mis-spent Saturday morning. But the brains of humans are *par excellence*, exquisitely sensitive to what happens to us after birth. It is then

that the dynamic and all-important connections are forged between brain cells, and it is those tiny circuits that faithfully underscore your particular lifestyle, needs and experiences. The cell itself, and hence its genetic provenance, might be relatively small beer in the face of the thousands of signals with which it will be bombarded moment by moment, and which could accordingly change both the type of message it will subsequently send,

as well as the number of neuron neighbours that will receive them. This huge flexibility of our neuronal connections means that we humans are not entirely at the mindless dictates of our genes, and hence have a far less stereotyped behavioural repertoire, compared with a mouse. We cannot blame our genes, nor can we point to one brain region or the other if we are defending our individuality. Instead of giving us

excuses for poor performance, or grounds for jeering at the opposite sex, Keverne and Surani's remarkable work should be seen instead as providing invaluable clues as to how and why we do not merely reproduce from an unfertilised egg, but have instead a rich genetic melting pot from which to cook up, and savour, true individuality. *© The Human Brain, A Guided Tour, by Professor Susan Greenfield, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99*

□ How thunderbolts might be deflected by lasers □ Why Britain exports its brightest ideas □ Beside the seaside with Julius Caesar

Lightning reactions

LIGHTNING remains one of nature's unpredictable, and uncontrollable, forces. It can strike at almost half the speed of light, delivering hundreds of millions of volts to whatever lies in its path. It can kill and maim; it regularly triggers power failures, sparks forest fires and disrupts navigational equipment on aircraft. Now scientists want to shoot lasers into the sky to deflect it.

Lightning is the spectacular finale to a largely mysterious weather process. In storm conditions, an electrical charge builds up in thunderclouds. When the charge reaches a critical level, the cloud discharges its energy in a series of sudden bursts. Lightning rods, mounted on the side of buildings, provide the best defence against these outbursts — lightning will take the easiest route to Earth, and a metal rod is far more alluring than air.

Research into this dramatic phenomenon has progressed well over the past two decades. In America the National Lightning Detection Network, a web of 100 stations, has since the Eighties, monitored the timing and magnitude of electrical discharges. The information is relayed via satellite to a control centre in Arizona, and warnings are sent to electricity companies,

airlines and the United States Strategic Air Command. It is estimated to save electricity companies half a million dollars each year because repair crews know exactly where to look for damage and are able to react swiftly. In some cases, the damage has been pre-empted.

However, the search has continued for a more sophisticated means of controlling the discharges, especially in the airspace above sensitive installations such as nuclear power plants. Jean-Claude Diels, from the University of New Mexico, and Xin Miao Zhao, from the Los Alamos National Laboratory, reveal in next month's *Scientific American* that they plan to fire lasers into a thunderstorm. The idea



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Anjana Ahuja

is based on the fact that lightning strikes when the air surrounding the cloud becomes sufficiently conductive. Lasers can be used to induce such conditions — as the lasers zoom upwards through the air, they rip the electrons off atoms, leaving a trail of positive ions in their wake. The lightning then follows this electrical channel to the ground. To avoid the instruments being struck, the laser beam is diverted into the sky using a mirror, and the mirror is surrounded by lightning rods. Their idea is not without precedent. Japanese researchers recently tried aiming high-energy lasers into thunderclouds. The plan backfired because the laser was too

efficient — just as a bulldozer can be brought to a halt by rubble of its own making, the newly created ions formed a barrier through which the powerful laser could not burrow.

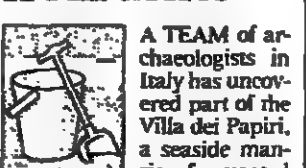
The ultraviolet laser adopted by Professor Diels and Dr Zhao uses pulses of just a trillionth of a second. This allows it to pack a powerful punch to individual atoms, while at the same time picking a less well-defined path through the air. This prevents a solid barrier of ions forming. However, there is another problem — the loosened electrons can quickly attach themselves to oxygen molecules, inhibiting lightning conduction. The researchers plan to overcome this by directing a second visible-light laser upwards, which shakes the electrons free again.

For now, the laser idea remains just that — the researchers have performed theoretical calculations, computer simulations and limited laboratory experiments. They plan to build a mobile version of their cumbersome laser gadget and put it through its paces at a high-voltage testing facility at Mississippi State University. Only then will they brave the electricity of the heavens. *© Nigel Hawkes is away*



THE GREAT British idea can often end up as the Great Foreign Import.

A team of social scientists at Edinburgh University is investigating the matter. Led by Dr Graham Spinardi, they will track inventions patented



by Julius Caesar in the town of Herculaneum. The mansion was buried when Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79. Excavations actually began in 1750, when marble statues, mosaics and 1,800 carbonised papyrus scrolls were discovered. The project was abandoned 15 years later without explanation. Work resumed in 1990, when two shafts leading to the mansion were discovered, along with some bronze figures. The house, built on the Bay of Naples, belonged to Caesar's father-in-law. Artists' impressions show that the magnificent villa — the grandest in Herculaneum — was arranged around a courtyard and featured an enormous atrium. The Getty Museum in Malibu, California, was modelled on its majestic lines.

The recent dig has been called "miraculous" by Ian Jenkins, one of the few outsiders to visit the site. One reason for the excitement is that the villa is thought to boast a fabulous library. Professor Marcello Gigante, of the University of Naples, acknowledged as the driving force behind the latest excavations, has studied some of the scrolls that were found at the site. Some have been attributed to a philosopher and poet named Philodemus. Professor Gigante suspects the hidden library may contain works by Cicero, Lucretius, Virgil and Horace.

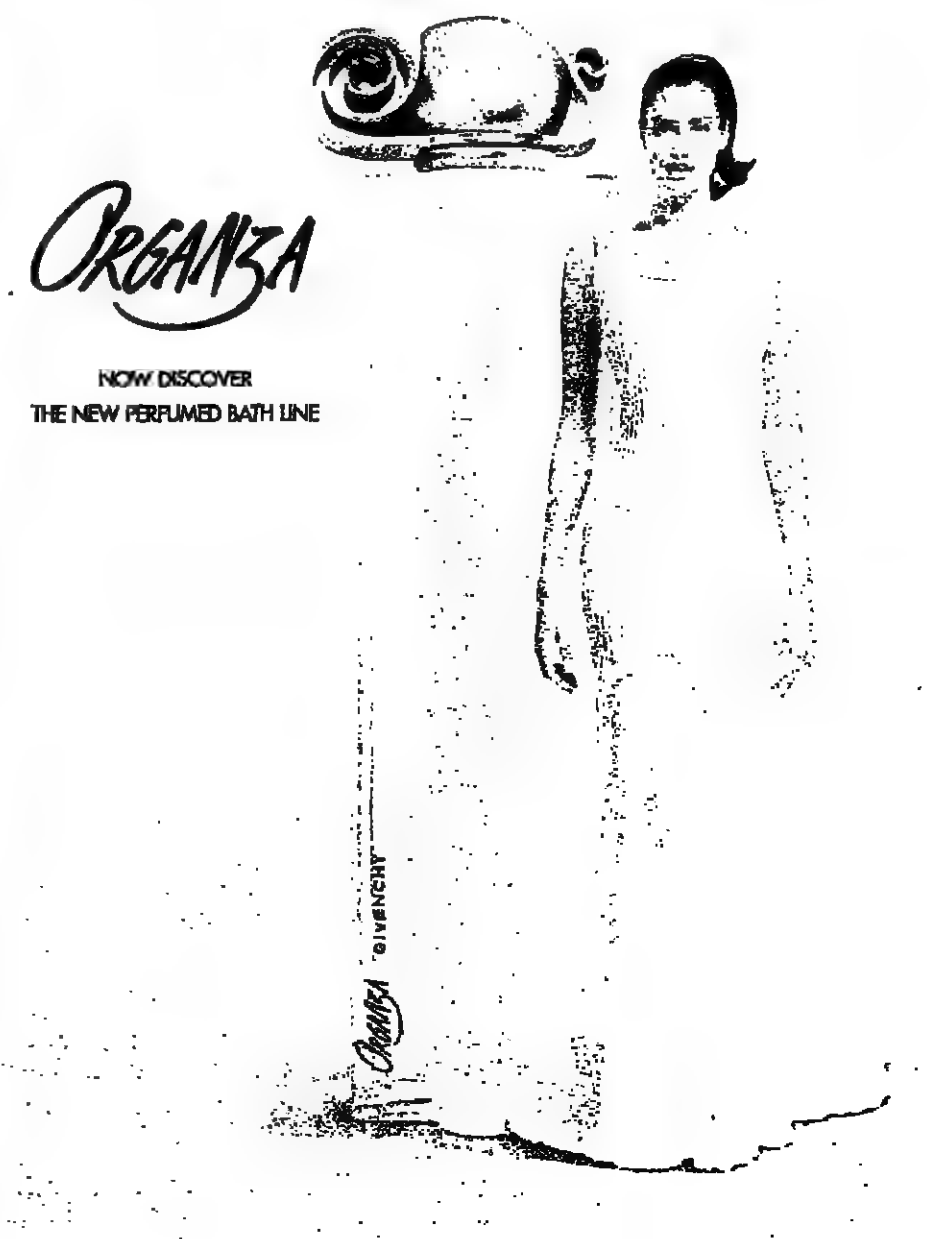
Could our greatest talent be ignoring homegrown talent?

and licensed by the British Technology Group and its forerunner, the National Research Development Corporation, and examine the progress of inventions from

Germany, Japan and America, which are thought to be much better at exploiting homegrown expertise. Dr Spinardi says that with exceptions, there is an "almost

complete failure on the part of UK industry to take advantage of indigenous inventions". Mountain bikers ought to find the report interesting. Modern bikes are constructed from carbon fibre invented in Britain in the Sixties. Now there is only one small British manufacturer.

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ON SIGHT AND INSIGHT - THE DIARY OF A BLIND MAN

PART ONE

'One moment blindness seems like a gift, the next an appalling nuisance'



"The hardest thing is to stop living in the past and start living as a blind person. In the early days I remember saying, 'Well, I will never experience trees again'. How wrong I was! Nowadays, when I wrap my arms around a tree, trees have come back"

John Hull was not always blind. His journey into what he calls "deep blindness" was slow and tortuous: he lost the sight in his left eye through illness in late adolescence and for much of his adult life he struggled with deteriorating vision before finally going blind at 48. His new book, *On Sight and Insight*, is a remarkable account of what it is to be blind, entering, to use one of his own metaphors, a dark tunnel from which there is no hope of emerging.

Hull, 62, is drawn to paradox and inversion. The title of the book is a canny acknowledgement of a common misconception: that the blind are in some way blessed with powers of divination; that blindness is an ambiguous symbol for insight. The blind person in history is both an object of wonder and pity. "He has the curious charisma of omniscience, as well as supposedly being blessed with an amazing memory," says Hull. "Of course, blind people have no more insight than anyone

John Hull, who went blind at the age of 48, is haunted by the paradoxes of his condition. Interview by Jason Cowley

else: blindness is an experience of complete incompetence." And yet Hull does seem unusually blessed with deep understanding and wisdom. As Professor of Religious Education at Birmingham University, he is haunted by the great biblical paradoxes: that we are at our richest when we have nothing, that it is only in

darkness that we finally learn to see. Psalm 139, *The darkness and the light are both alike to thee*, speaks directly to his being blind. "The poignancy of those paradoxes is that they don't remain stable," he says. "So one moment blindness can seem like a dark paradoxical gift, but the next like an appalling nuisance." He feels this most acutely

when he is at home with his children, Thomas, 16, Lizzie, 15, Gabriel, 11, and Joshua, 9. At work, he is in control; he has every possible available support mechanism to do his job. But at home, he says: "I sometimes sit, with this maelstrom of activity swirling around me, and feel frustrated that I can't join in. There's so much I can't do, like digging the garden, driving the car or shopping. About all I can do is wash up. So to say blindness was a transforming gift is a sort of bourgeois luxury, an insult to my family."

His wife, Marilyn, 45, works part-time as a teacher. He describes their marriage as "wonderfully successful but painful". They met in 1974 when she was studying at Birmingham. She was engaged to a vicar at the time and he was still married to his first wife, with whom he had a daughter, Imogen. The couple met a few years later at an Amnesty International event. They married in 1979 when Hull was already observing the world as if through an impenetrable mist.

He says: "When I say our relationship is painful, what I mean is that blindness casts a shadow across it. She never complains, but my blindness has made Marilyn's life so much more hectic. She does virtually everything at home. Still, he joins in where he can, and enjoys taking his sons to watch Aston Villa, where the club supplies a commentary for blind fans. On *Sight and Insight* began as a private audio diary through which Hull attempted to come to terms with the calamity that had befallen him. No other form could have expressed the immediacy and fragmentary character of the experience. At first, he was overcome by helplessness at finding himself in an abstract world of disembodied voices. He felt stranded, a prisoner in his own body. "I felt my life had shrunk to a tiny point," he says. "When sight is lost it is almost always experienced as a terrible deprivation, and the loss is inevitably followed by a period of grieving."

It was 1983 and he would sit for hours alone in his office, exhausted by the need to understand. Keeping a diary, though, drew him out of despair - because paying attention to the minutiae of existence "requires a corresponding reflection, an analysis of thought, emotion and sensation that can lay the foundations of a new imaginative response".

The book interweaves dreams, memories and anecdotes with philosophical and theological speculation. There are meditations on how sex becomes "more primitive for the blind" and how it feels to lose communication through general body language. The

dreams are of intense interest: before entering "deep blindness", Hull dreams vividly in colour. But as he begins to lose visual memory, his dreams become more indistinct: people no longer have faces, appearing not as material bodies but as presences.

The most powerful passages are where Hull engages with the natural world. His rural sensitivity fills the book with the sound of rain, the rustling of trees and a distant rumble of thunder. He even builds a porch at the back of his house to which he sometimes retreats in the middle of the night to listen to the rain. The experience sends his thoughts racing back to family holidays in tents, the rain "whispering like my mother's voice".

John Hull was born in 1935 in Corryong, Victoria, the son of a Methodist minister who emigrated from England to

Australia in 1915. As a sickly, introspective boy, he was unusually close to his mother, inheriting her evangelical fervour. The cause of his poor eyesight was a rare genetic condition called Vagana's syndrome. As a result, he was afflicted with acute dermatitis, asthma and late-maturing cataracts. Beneath his thick, unruly beard there are patches of inflamed skin, and when he laughs you can hear the distant seagulls in his lungs.

In his early 20s he moved to England to study at Cambridge, developing a more liberal theology. "I became less dogmatic and gave up the idea of becoming a minister. I guess coming to England was my way of escaping my parents' faith." He refuses to live nostalgically, lost in contemplation of what might have been. Rather, he is determined to live creatively, facing his condition with lucidity and wit while extracting meaning from it. "The hardest thing is to stop

living in the past and start living as a blind person," he says. "In the early days I remember saying to myself 'Well, I will never experience trees again'. How wrong I was! Nowadays, when I wrap my arms around a tree or scrape my hands across its bark, trees have come back. That ability to experience beauty through the hands took such a long time to come."

The book ends in August 1991 when he stopped keeping a diary. He no longer felt the need to monitor his experience, having reached a kind of peace. He accepts he will never see again. He says: "Blindness can be a way, and I have only partially realised this, of understanding and overcoming the great historical divisions of humanity into the weak and the strong, those in wealth and those in poverty, those in sickness and in health. To grasp this is to turn the stigma of blindness into a calling, from stigma to stigmata." There is a sense of release in his words.

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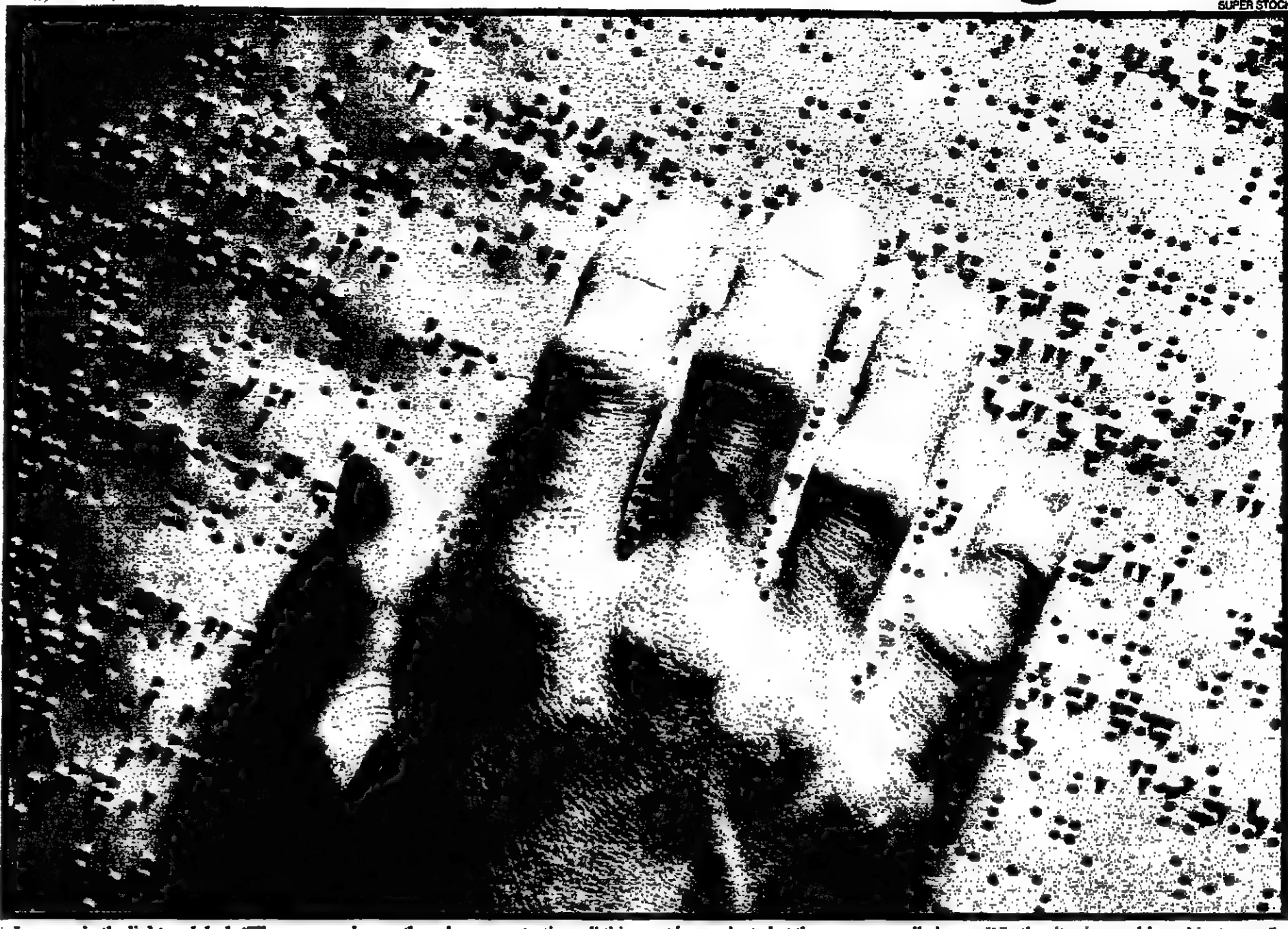
'Daddy doesn't need the light'

Professor Hull started to keep a cassette diary of his experiences shortly after he was registered blind in 1983. Below are extracts from it...

About a year after I was registered blind, I began to have such strong images of what people's faces looked like that they were almost like hallucinations. It was like looking at a television set. Several times in my life I have been temporarily without sight, often in eye hospitals.

I have had this strange experience of getting to know the nurses through their voices and inevitably forming some mental image of them, only to find when sight returned that I was completely wrong. So I have good reason to believe that the images I have formed of the people whom I have met as a blind person are probably quite false.

When a sighted person makes a new acquaintance, sight alone enables him or her to form certain impressions and to get ready to meet a certain kind of person. The blind person, on the other hand, does not know what he or she is meeting. To say that this removes the possibility of facile first impressions is itself facile. The first impression which the blind person does receive of a new acquaintance, of the voice, the touch of the hand and so on, may be equally misleading. We are constantly forming hypotheses about a new acquaintance, not only during the first few moments of the encounter, but throughout the years of that relationship. The blind person simply has a lot less information to go on when forming these hypotheses. One of the results is that it takes a blind person longer to get to know somebody.



I can see in the light and dark: "The measured pace, the calm concentration, all this must be conducted at the same controlled pace. Whether it rains or shines, I just go on"

NOVEMBER 22, 1983
Thomas and I were playing with a little plastic turtle, about three inches in diameter. He hid it behind my glasses, covering my left eye, and said, in a teasing voice, "Now Daddy can't see with that eye. Daddy can only see with that eye," pointing to the right eye. He then removed the turtle from my left eye, laughed and remarked, "Now Daddy can see again."

In all of our human relationships, there is a natural assumption of reciprocity. I speak and I expect you to speak. I extend my hand and I expect you to extend your hand. I smile, I expect you to return my smile. So it is with sight. I see you. I expect that you see me.

Marilyn has often remarked that I tend to play with the children in a dark room, having forgotten to turn the lights on. We are often amused by the fact that the children accept this without comment, as if it were perfectly normal. Last Monday night I took Thomas upstairs into my study intending to listen to a cassette together. We went into the room, I closed the door. The curtains were drawn and it was, in any case, pitch dark outside. I made no comment, nor did Thomas. He sat down on my knee, we got out the cassette and I put one or two on the deck in order to locate the track I wanted. Having found it, I suggested to Thomas that he should find the corresponding pictures in the book which went with the cassette. He got down, went across towards the shelf where the books are kept, then hesitated, moved towards the light switch by the door, and said, "Thomas wants the light. Thomas can't see without the light."

It occurred to me afterwards that the implications of this are that Thomas thinks I can see in the dark. He can't see without the lights on; I can see whether it's light or dark. I do not suppose that he has actually formed this thought in his mind as a sentence, that I can see in the dark, but it may well be the taken-for-granted belief which is the

presupposition of this behaviour with me. He is, after all, perfectly used to the idea that adults can do things which he cannot do. I, as Daddy, can lift things which are too heavy for him. It would seem only natural that I, as Daddy, can see in conditions where he cannot see. After all, it might be said that I behave exactly as if I really can see in the dark. I never ask to have the light put on, and never bother about whether it is on or not.



Tom and Lizzie shortly after Gabriel's birth in 1988

How, then, does Thomas construe his relationship with me? He would assume reciprocity. As he is to me, so I am to him. He would also assume my superiority. Anything he can do, I can do better.

Imogen, who is now about ten-and-a-half years old, seems to have forgotten that so recently I was able to see. She made a reference to the fact that when I was a little boy I could see. She seemed surprised when Marilyn and I laughed and corrected her. Marilyn reminded her that I could see when I was a grown man. Only a few days ago Imogen and I were reminiscing about something we had done together which clearly involved me being able to see.

FEBRUARY 26, 1984
Thomas had asked me if he could have the light on in the room where we are playing. It had not occurred to me that it had become dark. He had explained, "Thomas needs the

light. Daddy doesn't need the light."

MARCH 31, 1984
We were listening again to the cassette of the story of Rapunzel. When we came to the part where the witch throws the prince out of the window of the tower on to the thorns which blind him, and where the prince wanders through the forest with his stick looking for Rapunzel, Thomas asked, "Why was he

to have all the time in the world."

Sighted people can bend time. For unsighted people, time is sometimes slow and sometimes rapid. They can make up for being lazy by rushing later on. Things can be gathered up quickly in a few minutes. The reason why I do not seem to be in a hurry as I go around the building is not that I have less to do than my colleagues but I am simply unable to hurry.

It takes me almost exactly 22 minutes to walk from my front door to my office. I cannot do it in 15, and if I tried to take 20 minutes over it, I would probably get lost, because knowledge of the route depends, to some extent, upon maintaining the same speed. The measured pace, the calm concentration, the continual recollection of exactly how far one has come and how far is still to go, the pause at each marked spot to make sure that one is orientated, all this must be conducted at the same controlled pace. Whether it rains or shines, I just go on.

MAY 11, 1984
I was walking home after an evening class. I heard running feet approaching, stopping perhaps 20 yards away. A fierce, harsh, male voice distorted with anger and malice, shouted, "Are you blind, mate? You're not blind! How did you get blind? You're not blind!"

I was so surprised, both by the abruptness and the manner of the address, that I stood perfectly still. I waited for a moment, in silence, wondering whether to reply. Again my accuser spat out his question.

Quietly, but hoping that my voice sounded firm and clear, I replied, "Yes, I am blind."

I sensed he was coming closer to me. "You dirty bastard. You're not blind!"

I tried to resist the impulse to lift up my briefcase and hold it in front of me, for I had the impression that he was about to hit me. I thought any nervousness might have encouraged him to attack me. He seemed to move off to the left a little, and when he spoke again it was from far away. From even farther away, he

sent after me one final "You're not blind!" and then he seemed to disappear.

A blind friend who makes a living by busking in shopping centres told me that he is often attacked by youths who accuse him of being a fraud. I have never had this particular experience before.

JULY 7, 1984
Once he is on it, a stairway is one of the safest places for a blind person. You never find a chair left on a stairway, or a bucket or a brick. There is never a stair missing from a stairway, and all the stairs are the same height. There is almost always a handrail or at least a wall to touch.

Most sighted people tend to assume that stairs will be dangerous for the blind. The blind person needs to know two things first, that he or she is approaching stairs, second, that the stairs go down. Most sighted guides disclose the first fact, very many forget about the second.

What blind people find difficult are smooth, open spaces. It is just these areas which are assumed by sighted people to be the best for blind people, because there is no danger of tripping. From the blind point of view, this is not negotiable because there are no orientating signals. There is no way of telling where you are, once you are on it.

JULY 9, 1984
I was walking in the city centre when someone offered me a packet of mints. "Thank you," I said, brightly accepting the sweets with a cheerful smile. "That's all right," replied my benefactor, "I had decided to give them to the next child I met anyway."

At a formal dinner, the main course was chicken on the bone. I asked the person next to me to wave to the waitress, to ask the kitchen staff to take the chicken off the bone for me. She said that would be quite unnecessary; she would cut up the chicken. "I cut up a meal for a handicapped child only the other day."

A disabled adult man loses part of his manhood, part of his adulthood, and part of his humanity. I know Jesus told

us we should repent and become as little children, but I don't want it in this way. I don't like having my adulthood wrenched from me.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1984
My memory is like the memory of a snail. My body can recollect the narrow little strip of ground over which I have passed, and it consists of tiny details, so tiny as to be irrelevant from the point of view of the cat and dog.

OCTOBER 13, 1984
Last night Marilyn and I were talking about whether or not it would have made a difference

to my feelings about Thomas and Elizabeth if I had ever seen them. Is the fact that I have never seen them going to be a permanent loss in my relationship with them?

Imogen bridges both lives. She was seven when I lost my sight. Is it not possible that she will remain in my imagination fixed at the age of seven, while Marilyn will always remain young and beautiful?

Extracted from On Sight and Insight by John M. Hull, published by OneWorld Publications on August 7 at £7.99. In case of difficulty in obtaining a copy, telephone 01747 851339. © John M. Hull

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'Opening the door onto a rainy garden must be like a sighted person opening the curtains and seeing the world'

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generation a sense of regrouping in this country which is now gathering momentum. Are we one nation or several? Should we have one centre or many? Are we to be one culture or multicultural? Now that our industrial overlordship is long past and our manufacturing fields reduced, now that our warriors are mostly home from over the sea and our once inviolable institutions plunged into self-doubt and decay, who, what, are we? And from which part of our past do we draw what will be our future?

We are fortunate to have such a prospect behind us. Whether we start from most ancient Box-Tree man or the ingenuitous enraptured slaves, whether the include the Romans – whose genes and profiles are still found on soil they ravished for 400 years – or Angles, Saxons, Norsemen, Jutes



islands. Saints, scholars, sinners, the exiled, the conquerors, the peace-seekers, the bounty hunters — all have come here and many have been bred here, and some how a cohesive mongrel society merged and emerged.

And what did that society do in its turn? It threw itself back out on to the world. Once it was established — by about the 12th century — its armies became the terror of Europe. They crusaded, explored, exploited, and travelling along with and after them, our adventurers discovered new worlds, ravaged them, sometimes cultivated them, circumnavigated the globe and brought under sway or at least awareness of these tiny islands most of the rest of the world.

Allies, then, inextricably intertwined, have been the inventions from here, such as those which powered the Industrial Revolution.

tion, and the ideas from here, from Newton and Darwin, two men whose work arguably changed the world of thought and modern existence more than the work of any men outside the very greatest religious leaders. The English language is now the language of the world and Shakespeare is its nonpareil of expression.

These sketches, brief and rather bombastic though they are, surely give a starting point for the claim that history is due some space in that Mekon brain at Greenwich, itself a great historical and intellectual site in our history.

This is to say nothing of the fun that can be had with Cavaliers and Roundheads, with the White Rose and the Red, with Queen Elizabeth I and Mrs Pankhurst with the origin of the trade unions

and the course of Parliament from Sir John de Montfort to the present challenge to the hereditary system.

There is also a history of Christianity in this country as strong, as fine and as dark as it is anywhere in Christendom. That too could play its part in what began as a Christian celebration.

There are many ways these days to present history which utterly vanquish remembered horrors or classroom dates and battles. I am sure that Peter Mandelson would be able to find a Prospero to conjure up the heights and chasms of our stupendous past.

The Prime Minister wants his son to enjoy an experience he will remember for ever. A good ambition. The boy in Sherborne Abbey will also want that. But those boys, as well as their more historically conscious parents and grandparents, would also, I think, embrace a pageant, a show, a programme which reveals how we arrived here, with what blemishes, with what wounds and with what trophies.

First off the grid in the abstract stakes

The artist Bridget Riley gives Isabel Carlisle a guided tour of the Tate Gallery's revelatory new show of work by Mondrian

Many of us know what a painting by Mondrian looks like, even if we don't know much about why he painted the way he did. His black grids intermeshed with blocks of white and primary colours today appear on everything from tea towels to dresses to shopping bags. They have ended up among the visual clichés of our time. But the exhibition *Mondrian: Nature to Abstraction* that opens on Saturday at the Tate Gallery, the first in this country since the 1950s, is set to make us look at Mondrian anew by taking us back to his artistic beginnings, and to the beginnings of abstraction.

London missed out on the major Mondrian show that started in Holland three years ago and then went to Washington and New York. So when the Tate was offered the pick of the important collection of early works in the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague (while it was closed for renovation) it snapped up the offer. The abstract artist Bridget Riley was invited to work with the Tate curator Sean Rainbird on selecting the show, which moves from the first landscapes, through Mondrian's exploration of spirituality to his encounter with the Cubism of Braque and Picasso, and the evolution of his own language.

Riley's own abstract paintings share the preoccupations found in Mondrian's works — with light and colour, the articulation of planes and the re-creation of everyday sensations. Riley has also been a victim of cultural piracy. In the Sixties her Op art paintings were copied on designs for clothing, and designed to for anything from lampshades to dresses.

She saw her work trivialised in much the same way as Mondrian's and found herself fighting to be

taken seriously as an artist again. Riley hopes the time may have come to find a new approach to Mondrian. "I would like visitors to discover the true sense of Mondrian's abstraction as it was and is: a lived and living thing," she says.

Studded among the 60 or so paintings in the Tate are key works that chart the evolution of Mondrian's art. Riley first picks out a small painting of 1906-7, right at the start

‘He had nothing to keep him together except his self-belief’

of his career: *Geinrust Farm in the Mist*. There are wonderful silvery greys in it and the reflected image of a house and trees in water, making an abstracted oval shape spread flat across the canvas." Moving on to *Dune 2* (1909), Riley says that "the Divisionist handling of broken colour gives a sparkle to the horizon line of the dune against the sky and pulls it up towards you". These naturalistic landscapes are so different from the iconic abstractions of 30 years later.

In trying to understand where the vertical and horizontal lines and balanced blocks of colour in Mondrian's mature art come from, it is tempting to look back to the Dornburg coastline with the Westkapelle lighthouse and the dunes that he painted in his youth. Riley says: "It is important to see the change to plastic abstract

painting in Mondrian's development: it takes place around 1919. From this time on, it is no longer merely a "look back at Westkapelle or the dunes."

Turning to the paintings in the Tate show, Riley says: "There are two key works from a group which forms a hinge in Mondrian's development from abstraction to free abstract painting. They are both related to the same experience: the sea and a starry sky. The first, *Pier and Ocean* 4 (1914), shows Mondrian abstracting from what he has seen. And in the second, *Checkerboard with light colours* (1919), we see his 'reconstruction' of the same sensation. After 1919 Mondrian started to build painting in its own abstract terms: no longer from a given in nature as he put it. He called this way of building up a painting 'deconstruction' and it is to distinguish it from the old plastic in the European tradition in which pictorial abstraction was veiled by representation."

Cubism ultimately propelled Mondrian into abstraction, but Cubism was rooted in nature – within the different planes there are always recognisable objects. In *Flowering Apple Tree* of 1912 Riley sees "Mondrian using Cubism very much to his own ends. The tree, almost unrecognisable, becomes a rhythmic structure supporting subtly differentiated grey planes."

"As Mondrian went on he found he wanted something more 'inward'. Mondrian was the first to show that the abstract plastic structure of painting, not unlike the autonomous structure of a language, could become as meaningful and communicative as literature."

Looking at Mondrian's later works it can be hard to get past the formal abstract shapes and very basic colours to the spirituality that Mondrian was trying to convey.



Bridget Riley with Mondrian's *Composition with Red, Yellow and Blue* (1935): "He showed what was possible, purified the means

"You can't somehow get at the spirituality of Mondrian by circumventing his work," Riley feels. "It is rather like realising that in order to enter into the quicksilver world of Proust's imagination one has to get through all his long sentences. One has to look with a work, not through it."

To hear Riley describe the 1921 *Composition with Red, Blue, Black, Yellow and Grey* as "a beautiful true abstract painting in which the lines and their directions, the planes and their spatial positions, the colours and their proportions, together balance weights and create tensions around the empty centre" is a revelation, and suggests

some of the inspiration that Riley has found in Mondrian's work. "For many painters of my generation and before," Riley says, "Mondrian was a key figure. He showed us what was possible, he purified the means and clarified the issues to an extent that no one else had attempted, let alone achieved."

Part of Riley's admiration for Mondrian comes from his absolute dedication to his art. "He never at any time had money for more than the barest essentials," she recounts. "He arrived in England in 1938 with two easels, some finished and unfinished paintings, and one suitcase. He had nothing to keep him together except his faith in

the direction he was pursuing. "When he moved to New York two years later it was the same story. The studio was furnished with orange boxes and often bitterly cold, but one month to the day after leaving Liverpool by boat he had begun his first painting."

Mondrian's very last *Boogie Woogie* paintings are not in this show, which ends in 1939. They are the masterpieces of his career, painted in 1942-44, just before he died. Their lines, broken up into staccato dashes of colour, evocative of the jazz beat, finally recaptured the energy of early works such as the *Blue Tree* and *Mill in Smilting*, where the vivid brush-stroke

seem to dance across the canvas. Riley explains this by saying the "Mondrian had to start, as he himself said, with the simplest lines and most basic colours. He couldn't do it any other way. It was not that he suppressed his feelings for vibrant expression, the 'dynamic rhythm of life' as he called it. It was that he had to build an entire context in which this quality of life could be expressed. It was a enormous task and one that could only be achieved by sustained courage and endurance."

© Mondrian: Nature in Abstraction is on display at the Tate Gallery from Saturday to November 30. Sponsored by ATEL. Tickets from £10.

Don't come to us with your troubles

AFTER a burst of amplified machinework first the stern, then the bow, of Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* over the PA puts *Junco* and the *Peacock* in context. The dissembled video explains that the play was greatly underappreciated by the foolish critics when it was first produced in 1924. The gunshot here seems to announce that all dissent as to the stature of O'Casey's drama has been silenced in the intervening years.

Then Barnes's eager, elaborate production of the Abbey's forthcoming *Junco* in 1925 years — does not suggest that anything but judicious use of a machinework could have brought about substantial softening of opinions. The play is still a simply plotted aggregation of hearty Dublinness, creaky, bawls and deeply layered misfortune.

With the help of Monica Frawley's design and Tina MacHugh's inventive lighting, the show looks very good. Frawley offers an enormous

THEATRE
Juno and the Paycock
The Abbey, Dublin

tenement staircase running up into the riggings and down beneath the stage, presumably to a whole other set of miseries, while MacHugh conjures up strange spaces and spectra

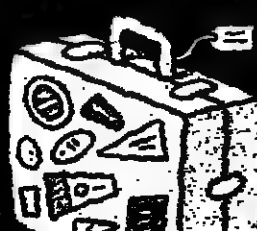
The play still relies on the laddish interaction between Jack Boyle (Vincent McCabe) and his partner in porter, Joxer Daly (Donal O'Kelly), a kind of tenement Morrissey and Clunes. Both are content to hand over what few pennies they have to the local barman, leaving Juno (Ger Ryan) to run the Boyles' grim slap keep

O'Kelly gives much more to the part of Daly than it really deserves, his lithe movements and fluid gestures alone sufficient to draw the untrustworthy wastrel. By contrast, Ryan succeeds through her vocal work, particularly her long, despairing scream on receiving the news that soldiers' mothers must always expect.

But even as Juno and her family are dragged from unhappy poverty to penniless misery it is hard to see how we could begin to worry, or share their concerns about the power or the hypocrisy of the Church, a spent force in the Ireland of today. It will take a far more rigorously pruned production than this to see O'Casey into the new millennium.

LUKE GIANCO

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There is still a place for culture

Derwent May defends an ideal under threat from the lobbyists

Penguin Books has just brought out a new edition of a great 19th-century book that has almost been forgotten — *The History of Civilisation in Europe*, by the French bourgeois statesman, François Guizot.

Civilisation, Guizot said, was the city art — the art of living prosperously and in peace together. He traced the growth of the institutions that had made that possible, but he also highlighted its companion growth — the rise of the civilised individual, responsible and tolerant in his private dealings with others.

But there was another development that was creating much interest, especially in Britain, in Guizot's time — the rise of the cultured person, the pursuer of "sweetness and light united", in Matthew Arnold's phrase in his *Culture and Anarchy*. "Culture," said Guizot, "is the art of the day, launching his new arts initiative, 'is at the heart of what it means to be a civilised society.' But are they the same thing, the 'civilised' and the 'cultured' person? And is either ideal worth pursuing today?"

I think that they are quite different things — but that neither model has lost any of its importance and power. One can certainly be civilised without being cultured. There are many homes in Britain today where you will not see a book or a picture on the wall, and where more of the music and the drama come by courtesy of Carlton TV or its fellow programmers, but where the manners are gentle, the sense of responsibility strong, the friendship with neighbours real and trustworthy.

It would be hard to imagine a more "civilised" way of life among individuals, or to find one in human history. Yet there is still a poverty — which can only be called a poverty of culture — in those lives.

But can people be "cultured" without being civilised? To some extent, we are all inclined to believe that they can. "Culture" was being mocked even before Arnold had finished his great work of promulgating it. W.S. Gilbert's brilliant lampoon on the aesthete Bunthorne, "the man of culture rare", in *Patience* in 1881, expressed a common feeling that a preoccupation with art might distract a man from his duties as a robust citizen (even if it made him all too attractive to women).

In fact the idea of "culture" has received many knocks in the past century. D.H. Lawrence, civilised and cultured though he in fact was, could still warn his contemporaries that culture was a deadly trap if one wanted to get in touch with one's "true self". We all have in our heads a comic picture of the modern "culture figure" — he managed effortlessly to be both civilised and cultured, and a real poet, too. I think that the virtues he embodied are still virtues for us. And I think we should go on using the same resounding words that Guizot and Arnold employed to express them.

On the other hand, the deconstructionists find no value in *Hamlet* than in a Hamlet advertisement

(though I think they can be left to their analyses — or their analysts). Attempts have been made to drain the very word "culture" of the meaning that it formerly had, and apply it to any vaguely coherent way of life in any society, rather than to the tissue of rich perceptions and feelings that artists and thinkers have made available to us over the centuries — the Arnoldian meaning of the word, and the one I think most precious.

Nowadays there are innumerable lobbyists for "more money for the arts", but unlike the minister, many of them would shudder at the idea that they are interested in "culture". Perhaps they are right that many of the events that they would like to put on would not contribute much to that idea. Yet I think that the Arnoldian idea, properly understood, can still command our respect.

For we recognise them too — the people of real culture. They are not, perhaps, very many — but they bring something irreplaceable to our conversations and debates. They are at home with both the mind and the feelings: they know what the most remarkable men and women in history have thought, the joys they have found in life and the beauty they have found in the world.

Nowadays the cultured will also understand how man has evolved, and how the universe grew — because there have never really been "two cultures", of science and art, for those who wanted to know what the human mind and imagination were working on in their lifetime.

That degree of culture eludes most of us, and we may never be able to detect the return of the second subject in a symphonic movement, or reconstruct a philosophical argument that at the time we thought we had completely grasped. We may have to stick for most of the time to trying just to be civilised — which may sometimes prove to be almost as hard.

We also have to live with a paradox — that the creators of culture, and even of civilisation, were often far from getting high marks as exemplars of the cultured and civilised virtues. Artists have pursued their goals with an uncouth indifference to any other art. Philosophers have hated each other.

The saints themselves, by carrying such civilised virtues as self-denial or loyalty to dramatic extremes, have generated upsets of civilised communities — yet they have been canonised, and their lives remain an example to us.

Dr Johnson (though hardly a word about music is recorded from him) is an awesome figure — he managed effortlessly to be both civilised and cultured, and a real poet, too. I think that the virtues he embodied are still virtues for us. And I think we should go on using the same resounding words that Guizot and Arnold employed to express them.

Public opinion shifts on Mrs Parker Bowles, but Charles could still pay a high price if he makes her Queen

On Friday evening the Prince of Wales gave a private party at Highgrove to celebrate the 50th birthday of Camilla Parker Bowles. It has been denied that this was a further step in a calculated campaign to make their relationship more acceptable to the public. Whether or not there is such a campaign, there have been all the appearances of it. Moreover, it has been quite successful.

The new Labour Party has relied on so-called "contact" groups to identify changes in public opinion, both before and since the election. When I was chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, which we developed into something like a Consumer Council for Broadcasting, we made extensive use of these groups; they give a much deeper view of changes in public opinion than ordinary opinion polls.

I think one can guess what the contact groups have been saying about a possible marriage between the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles. A year ago they would have been mainly hostile today they would be divided. Public opinion seems to be shifting, gradually, from "not that woman", to "why shouldn't they?". This trend is likely to be maintained. At some future time there will probably be a wide acceptance that the private happiness of the couple is the decisive issue. There has already been a noticeable softening in the public attitude towards Mrs Parker Bowles. Perhaps many people would still be reluctant to see her crowned as Queen, but they no longer feel the hostility which existed at the time of the Royal divorce.

According to a report in the *Daily Mail*, the Prime Minister's private secretary, Alex Allan, is preparing a paper for him on the issues which would arise if Charles decided to remarry. In law, it is doubtful whether the Prince is bound by the Royal Marriages Act 1772, which

requires all descendants of George II to obtain the Queen's permission before they marry. There is an exemption for the descendants of princesses who marry into foreign families, and Prince Charles could claim that exemption by his descent from Queen Alexandra or, indeed, from the Duke of Edinburgh. In practice his marriage is a matter of state on which he would have to consult the Queen and she would have to consult the Prime Minister. If Alex Allan is preparing a paper for Tony Blair, that is a reasonable presumption.

There is no provision in law that would prevent a divorced man, married to a divorced woman, coming to the throne, nor is there any provision that the wife in such a case should not become Queen. The only legal restriction is that Prince Charles cannot become King if he marries a Roman Catholic. Mrs Parker Bowles is not a Roman Catholic, though her former husband is. A morganatic marriage would require legislation, but an ordinary marriage would not.

There are, however, several difficulties. The Queen is head of the Commonwealth but she is also still head of state in a number of Commonwealth countries, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In several of these countries, particularly Australia, this is a controversial issue. The succession of Prince Charles is in any case likely to be the occasion for further debate. If he does decide to marry Mrs Parker Bowles,

her suitability for the role of Queen might well become part of that. For instance, Quebec is a Catholic, mainly French-speaking province, already questioning its relationship with the rest of Canada. It would be hard to convince the people of Quebec that a divorced Englishman married to a divorced Englishwoman, and prohibited from marrying a Roman Catholic, is suitable as the ultimate head of state. It is not only British public opinion which needs to be considered.

William Rees-Mogg

The Church of England is at least as difficult a problem as the Commonwealth. Here again there is no law which says that a divorced man married to a divorced woman cannot be the supreme governor of the Church of England. As with the Commonwealth, the difficulty arises because the constitutional relationship is already controversial. The Church is divided on establishment; it is divided on divorce; it is divided on authority. Charles's succession, if he were at that time remarried, would tend to split an already divided Church.

Even before that, there would be

the question of the marriage itself. The Church of England, like the Roman Catholic Church, does not remarry divorced people. Prince Charles could be married in the Church of Scotland, or he might find a broad-minded Anglican clergyman to do the ceremony. Either solution might be regarded as evading the disciplines of the Church of England.

Another issue is that Charles, in the eyes of many Anglicans and all remotely orthodox Roman Catholics, has a wife living, and one who does not go away. Diana, Princess of Wales, has many critics, but she is a formidable public figure and is the mother of the eventual heir to the throne. Her public course has been erratic, but her capacity to seize the moment — and the headlines — is not in doubt. The public attitude to her has changed somewhat since the divorce, as was bound to happen, but she remains the media super-star of the Royal Family, and is not dependent any longer on her marriage for her world celebrity. It cannot be assumed that she would make it easy for her successor and, as she might think, supplanter to ascend the throne. The public continues to sympathise with her because they think she was treated badly; snatching her of her title of HRH was seen by many as unworthy of the Royal Family.

Looking at all these difficulties, it is no wonder that Buckingham Palace still takes the line that remarriage is not a possibility. From the Queen's point of view it has a number of risks:

Camilla edges a little closer to the throne

its only advantage is that it would help to settle Charles and make him happy — no small gain, if it were achieved. The Queen's golden wedding party last week showed how sure her sense of public relations usually is. But one may doubt whether she would, in the last resort, refuse her son permission to remarry. Perhaps Tony Blair would be tougher than the Queen, but he is a modern man, tolerant in personal matters, so that too may be doubted.

The greatest difficulty still lies in public opinion. We all have informal, continuous contact groups with our friends and acquaintances. My impression is that the young are more sympathetic to remarriage than the old, men more sympathetic than women, town than country, republicans than monarchists. Even if general public opinion is becoming gradually more favourable, certain sections are still against remarriage. Many of the most loyal monarchists remain opposed. It does not help Prince Charles that most republicans would be perfectly happy for him to remarry.

In the past 50 years, the monarchy has become a vulnerable institution. Even in the 1950s, when the Queen came to the throne, a hereditary monarchy at the centre of the Commonwealth and empire, presiding over Parliament and the Church of England, seemed much more natural than it does now. In the 1990s it depends on popularity, public skills and personal confidence: the Queen herself has maintained the institution, but the institution is undoubtedly weaker than it was. If he wants to do so, Prince Charles can probably remarry, become King and make Mrs Parker Bowles Queen. He will, however, pay some price for it, and nobody can tell him, or the Prime Minister, how high that price might prove to be.

Who is calling Blair's tune?

Peter Riddell on the close harmony between Labour and big business

The true nature of a political leader is shown by whom he most wants to please, and not to upset. For past Labour Prime Ministers, it was trade union leaders. For Tony Blair, it is top businessmen. One of the most important recent shifts in politics has been big business's growing distance from the Tory leadership and its increasing closeness to new Labour. That realignment is now being taken further with the divergence between the Confederation of British Industry's positive approach to a single currency, to be confirmed tomorrow, and the Tories' growing scepticism.

A striking feature of Labour's election campaign was the prominence given to endorsements by industrialists. That courtship has continued. First, there was the appointment of David Simon, of BP, as a minister. Arguably, his main value to Mr Blair was the mere fact of the willingness of such a prominent industrialist to join the Government, rather than the insights he can offer. The Tory attacks about his BP shareholding are mostly unfair, despite carelessness in Whitehall when he was appointed about how he should handle potential conflicts of interest. The Government has also been keen to enlist other leading industrialists in advisory positions, such as Martin Taylor, of Barclays, Sir Peter Davis, of the Prudential, and Chris Haskins, of Northern Foods.

As revealing has been the reaction of the Government — and, in particular, of No 10 — to business worries. Populist attacks by ministers on the remuneration of Camelot directors were quickly ended and business was



reassured that the Government was not going to challenge the right of boards to set executive pay. Similarly, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, emphasised that the windfall tax on the utilities in the Budget was not only a one-off levy, but was also to do with the past.

The sensitivities of the Prime Minister to big business have been shown by the saga of the Budget proposal to end foreign income dividends. These are dividends paid free of UK tax by British multinational firms out of their already taxed foreign earnings. Several leading multinationals immediately protested that this would hit them badly and they might have to consider moving their headquarters overseas. This alarmed officials in Downing Street, who said the Treasury had not alerted them to

REDEEMPTION AT LAST

this impact of the tax change. Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, has said publicly that any problems will be examined before the change is implemented in 1999, while Mr Blair told CBI leaders last week that the Government would respond to their worries.

But the key to the business/Labour closeness is Europe. The CBI has opposed the decision to sign-up to the social chapter but has been reassured by Mr Blair's emphasis on flexible labour markets and his opposition to new regulations. There is also parallel, though not identical, thinking on monetary union. The CBI will this week present a survey of members' views. It has backed away from

support for entry in the first wave in 1999, but the majority believes entry is "desirable in principle", when Britain is ready. This is stronger than the wait-and-see approach which used to be the Tory policy and is still that of the Government.

There is virtually no chance that Britain will join if monetary union goes ahead in 1999, not least because our economy is out of sync with the rest of Europe. But that is not the end of the story. While industry is worried now about too strong a pound, there is the risk of the usual overcorrection, so sterling may fall too fast in a couple of years' time. Business might then be keener on monetary union as a means of insuring stability. Gordon Brown sought in his Chatham House speech last Thursday to launch a national debate on monetary union and is

setting up an advisory group of business leaders to examine the practical implications. This is intended to keep the issue alive. Mr Brown is nearer the CBI's more positive "when Britain is ready" stand than were his predecessors. Mr Blair's position is opaque. My hunch is that he wants to see if public opinion can be led in a more pro-European direction. So if monetary union is launched successfully, there will be a widespread demand for entry, not least from business.

The new Tory leadership has ruled itself out of this debate. William Hague may not have satisfied the ultra-sceptics by opposing entry on principle, but his rejection of it for both this Parliament and the next one puts the Tories on the opposite side from big business and the CBI. So what say many members of the Shadow Cabinet and Thatcherite industrialists. On their view, the CBI is primarily the voice of manufacturing groups with large European interests, rather than small business and services. In fact, small businesses in the CBI are as keen on monetary union as the multinationals, though there are big divisions within industry and the City over its merits.

But it would be an historic divorce if the Tories differed from the CBI and big business on such a fundamental issue. That is exactly what the Labour leadership is hoping. Tory pro-Europeans believe that pressure from business will eventually pull the party back into the mainstream. One reason for introducing proportional representation for the European elections in 1999 is to highlight such Tory divisions. Some Tory MEPs already face reselection problems and many pro-Europeans will find it hard to swallow a probably sceptic manifesto. But PR offers some of these Tory MEPs the chance to stand on their own and perhaps winning a few seats. No wonder some Tory leaders are worried. They know that the battle for the hearts and minds — not to say the wallets — of industry is crucial to political credibility. At present, Mr Blair retains the goodwill of big business. Mr Hague cannot afford to ignore it and its views on Europe.

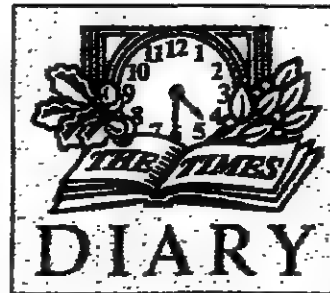
Straight talk

THE DEFEATED Exeter Conservative Dr Adrian Rogers will be ruling the day that he called his homosexual Labour opponent, Ben Bradshaw, a disease-ridden pervert. For in an interview in this week's edition of the parliamentary publication *The House Magazine*, Bradshaw, a declared homosexual, has decided to retaliate.

"I knew Dr Rogers from my days on Radio Devon and I relished the

challenge of standing against him and standing up to that kind of bigotry," he recalls. "The gay issue was all he could talk about and his stock phrase for describing me was 'Godforsaken, sterile, disease-ridden pervert'."

The personal enmity between the pair was fuelled when Rogers, the president of the Conservative Family Institute, dubbed Bradshaw "Bent Ben" and called on voters not



to "let the pink flag fly over Exeter". Rogers's indefatigable attack on his opponent (he's a media man, a homosexual, he likes Europe, he studied German, he lived in Berlin, he rides a bike, he's everything about society which is wrong), culminated in his eye-of-poll leaflet to constituents entitled "Do you want an MP who wants to promote homosexuality in schools?" For the beleaguered Bradshaw, this was too much. "He suggested that I represented a threat to Exeter schoolchildren," he tells *The House Magazine*. "Therefore it was very important, not only to win, but to win well — which I did."

Kim dancing

REDEMPTION at last for couples living together out of wedlock in South Korea comes thanks to the lifting of a 69-year-old ban on marriage between people with the same surname. The law, passed in 1908 to prevent inbreeding among the rural population, was finally declared unconstitutional last Wed-

nesday. In a country with a remarkably restricted range of surnames — 20 per cent of families are called Kim — it is estimated that more than 100,000 Buddhist, Christian, Confucian and Hindu couples bear the same name. "The nation must allow people to marry those they love," said one of the judges involved. "The marriage ban violated the nation's right to happiness."

There were vulgar scenes in West London yesterday when youths erupted into song outside the home of Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio. "Come out Mandy, if you're hard enough," was the 2am refrain in Notting Hill Gate. Happily, Mandelson was in his constituency, Harlepool, and unable to rise to the challenge.

Sign here

WHILE Chris Patten compiles his memoirs in a lonely gite in Languedoc, back in Hong Kong the Chinese auctioneers are amassing a small fortune from his autograph. Certificates bearing Patten's signature in his former capacity as Chancellor of Hong Kong University are being sold at auction in the province for £1,001, double the val-

ue of a J.F. Kennedy autograph and equal to that of an Abraham Lincoln.

No, minister

STILL RECOVERING from their late night last year, members of the Athenaeum Club in London are too tired to hold their summer ball. Last year 100 diplomats and Sir Humphreys donned white tie and walked to a Viennese quintet beneath the club's gilded statue of the goddess Athena. For many, however, the excitement was too much. "It was all rather exhausting," says a former swinger. "We've decided to save ourselves for the millennium."

There is a macabre touch to Elizabeth Hurley's forays into occultism. Along with gardening and embroidery, the list of her hobbies in the 1998 edition of *International Who's Who* includes toxicology — the study of poison.

Bit parts

THOSE WISHING to appraise Ffion Jenkins, the flaxen-haired finance of William Hague, need head no further than the Conservative Central Office bookshop in West-



Puzzler: Ffion Jenkins

minster next month, when her photograph will be available in the form of a 350-piece jigsaw puzzle. Also in the picture, but relegated to a background position, will be Hague. One thousand copies of the "Engagement Puzzle" will be available at £4.99 each, before they are replaced by the "Wedding Puzzle" after the ceremony in December. "We had a 250-piece jigsaw done of William for the Scottish conference which was terribly popular," says a spokesperson at the bookshop. "But the addition of Ffion is bound to boost sales."



Out and out opponents: Dr Adrian Rogers and Ben Bradshaw

There will be no more cheap haircuts in the House of Commons when Stephen Silverne, resident barber since 1970, retires after the summer recess. "Fifty hairdressers



كلمة في الجدل



GOODBYE TO ALL THAT

Dearing signals the end of free higher education

A little knowledge may or may not be a dangerous thing. It will certainly soon be more expensive. On Wednesday, Sir Ron Dearing's committee of inquiry will release its report on the future funding of higher education. It looks certain that he will recommend the abolition of the remaining grant elements in student finance and the adoption of part-payments for tuition fees. The Government appears set to accept his arguments. Any assessment of Sir Ron's analysis should await publication of the text in full. The principles upon which he will base his prescription seem, however, to be clear enough. What the Anderson and Robbins reports introduced 25 years ago will be buried by David Blunkett.

There will be outrage from certain, predictable quarters. Universities will insist that all the additional resources raised return to the ivory towers. Gordon Brown and Mr Blunkett will be reluctant to offer such a blanket assurance. Oxford and Cambridge will fight hard to preserve their privileged funding arrangements. This time they may find that their friends in high places do not deliver. Many parents, especially those who will face the full reputed £1,000 annual tuition fee, will feel that "New Labour, New Mortgage" was not what they voted for on May 1. A middle class backlash is not impossible.

Neither, however, is it inevitable. Tony Blair is taking a calculated risk that he will escape serious wrath from the electorate. It is quite possible that the public reaction will be closer to resignation than revolt. The progression erosion of the student grant over two decades has softened attitudes. Few would seriously contest the need for some sort of reform. The view that Britain spends too much on too few in its universities at the expense of its schools is now well established. The burden of proof today lies with

defenders of the status quo.

The leaders of higher education itself have followed the same trends. Not long ago the idea of loans and part payments of fees would have been denounced as despotic. Dons would have rushed to lecture that access to learning, especially for those from poorer backgrounds, would be severely restricted. The notion that this proposal might be promoted by a Labour Government would have been deemed quite impossible. This week, Sir Ron's words of wisdom will be widely welcomed in academia — provided that tutors, not the Treasury, benefit from the proceeds. Even the National Union of Students may find it difficult to drum up a decent demonstration.

But nostalgia will be all-pervasive even if the outcry is muted. The days of subsidised study will remain strong in the national memory. The era of late mornings and long nights, all courtesy of the tax payer, has been an integral aspect of the middle class experience. Only the most puritanical of parents will not harbour some sorrow that this same pattern will not be passed down to their sons and daughters. There will be the strong suspicion that the ultimate arrival of a £10,000 invoice will alter university culture. The same specialised professionalism that affects so much of life will soon strike every student too.

For those who share such disquiet, there is little left except to wait for Sir Ron Dearing. A powerful sense of inevitability surrounds his pronouncements. With the mutilation of MIRAS and now the end of free higher education, all the major middle class perks in the tax system are under assault. This is, in some sense, the price of success. Wider home ownership and the million-strong student population have made old advantages unaffordable. That will not lessen the shock of the cost when it finally comes.

MOI'S BAD FAITH

Britain should reconsider its aid to Kenya

After weeks of violent unrest in which his own security forces have played a disgraceful role, President Daniel arap Moi has promised legal and constitutional reforms which, if implemented in good faith, could set Kenya on the path to genuine political pluralism. Before the presidential and parliamentary elections due later this year, the existing Parliament dominated by KANU, the ruling Kenyan African National Union, is to review 11 repressive laws, some dating back to colonial times. A commission will be set up to review Kenya's constitution; and Vice-President George Saitoti has further promised that opposition politicians will have free access to the state media.

Kenya's opposition parties insist that they will not relax their vigilance; and nor should the 21 foreign governments who have condemned the bloodshed and demanded dialogue and political reform. Good faith is not Mr Moi's hallmark; he is adept at giving just enough ground to split the opposition and placate his international critics, only to reclaim it later. Kenya has had too many broken promises of constitutional reform. Tellingly, KANU's promise to repeal or amend the offending laws is hedged with the words "where deemed necessary". That leaves Mr Moi as much leeway as he decides he can get away with exercising. He must be left in no doubt that this time he has none.

Durable reform means that Mr Moi must not cheat Kenyans of true political choice, as he did in the comprehensively manipulated multi-party elections of 1992. Before the next elections, legislative and constitutional reforms must not only be enacted, but given a chance to bear fruit. For two years, Safina, the movement led by Richard Leakey which

probably has the best chance of uniting Kenya's disparate opposition, has been denied registration as a party. Once the Societies Act is repealed, Safina will need not only freedom to organise, but time to forge a workable coalition.

Whatever leverage the outside world can exercise must be used; and in Kenya money talks. All further official aid should be made conditional on an 'end to political crack-downs by the police and convincing action against official corruption. The Goldenberg fraud, which cost Kenya the equivalent of 10 per cent of its annual GDP, is only the most flagrant example.

That message is being pressed home in Nairobi by a team from the IMF, which is threatening to suspend its \$216m loan agreement. Rightly, the IMF has linked political and economic reform; Mr Moi's intransigence on both counts is undermining both the currency and investor confidence, not to mention Kenya's important tourist industry. In the words of Micah Cheserem, the Governor of Kenya's Central Bank, "you cannot keep closing down a country" and expect to keep its economy on course.

Britain seems curiously reluctant to draw the same conclusions. Two years ago the last Government said that further British aid would be contingent on "effective action on corruption"; but it continued to flow. This Government insists that human rights are to occupy a central place in British diplomacy. But when questioned in the Commons about suspending Britain's aid, Tony Lloyd, the responsible Foreign Office minister, said simply that he could not speak for the Department for International Development. Robin Cook and Clare Short should get together.

TATE OF ART

Birthday greetings to an entertainer and teacher

The Tate Gallery is a hundred years old today. The Prince of Wales will attend a celebratory reception to mark the centenary of the formal opening by his great-great grandfather in 1897. And the gallery will use the occasion to thank its patrons and benefactors, launch a new exhibition of the paintings that formed the core collection and outline its ambitious plans to split into two when the Tate Gallery of Modern Art is opened at the turn of the century in Bankside power station. The Tate is, in fact, celebrating three things: the munificence of the original bequest; its own substantial influence on the development of British art over the past century; and the enormous public appetite that the gallery is attempting to satisfy with its two branches outside London and its capital expansion plans.

Sir Henry Tate, the sugar magnate, deserves rich remembrance and praise. His tough negotiations with the Government of the day over the foundation of a national collection of British art ensured that the Millbank site — formerly a prison — was well designed and endowed. Over the years it has been expanded to seven times its original size, thanks in large measure to the generosity of subsequent patrons. The Clore Gallery, in particular, has been important in properly displaying the Turner Collection, the jewels of the gallery's holdings. And the branches in Liverpool and St Ives have done much to justify the Tate's claim to be not only a museum but also an edifying propagandist for British and modern art.

But the increase in holdings has far

outstripped the Tate's hanging space. The gallery has, over the years, made some happy and prescient purchases; but only a fraction can be displayed. The move into the old power station was not only essential to give London what it has always lacked — a proper gallery of modern art — but will also allow the Tate to put on more exhibitions, gather more paintings together for special displays and give the gallery the flexibility it has demanded since its formal separation from the National Gallery in 1955.

The Tate has always seen a proselytising role for itself, winning new converts to the cause of art. In some cases this has led to the staging of remarkable retrospectives, which have not only attracted hundreds of thousands of viewers but have led to reassessments of the artist himself: the 1960 Picasso exhibition stands out as one such success; the Cézanne last year powerfully revived the painter's popularity in Britain.

Moss, controversial, however, has been the Tate's involvement in "modern" art. The charge is that it has either been too cautious, pandering to the majority whose favourite paintings are *Ophelia* and *The Lady of Shalott*, or that it has embraced innovation without sufficient discrimination, as with Carl Andre's infamous pile of bricks. No gallery, however, can escape such argument: if art did not provoke discord and passion it would not be vital to the nation. The Tate has been buffeted by the clash of perceptions for a century; and through its portals millions of Britons have also been drawn into this challenging arena.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Varied concerns follow call for review of abortion laws

From the Director of the Birth Control Trust

Sir, Professor Lord Winston and his fellow correspondents (July 17) express concern that abortion is effectively available "on demand" despite the intention of the 1967 Act to prohibit the procedure if there is no substantial risk to the physical or mental health of the woman.

The overwhelming majority of abortions are undoubtedly performed because a woman wishes to end her unwanted pregnancy. But this is because most doctors interpret the law liberally, accepting that it would be damaging to the mental health of the woman to force her to endure a pregnancy and the birth of a child against her will. I have no doubt that such an interpretation is entirely within the spirit of the Act.

Those who wish to see the law interpreted more conservatively must ask themselves whether a more restrictive law would serve the needs of modern society.

Today we expect to separate sex from procreation. Even those who disapprove of "recreational sex" accept that it can be a legitimate expression of love and affection within a marital relationship. Yet there is also an expectation that women should plan (and limit) their pregnancies. In the light of recent studies, which show that two thirds of women seeking abortion became pregnant while using a contraceptive, it surely follows that if society expects couples

to regulate their fertility, to plan their families, it must accept that abortion will sometimes be necessary.

Recourse to abortion is essential if sexually active women are to have freedom to plan their pregnancies, and their lives, with confidence.

The abortion law is inadequate in many respects. One particular failing is that it did not legalise abortion in Northern Ireland. This means that the consequence of a restrictive law is glaringly clear — women with unplanned pregnancies travel to Britain for their abortions.

Those who wish to see the law restricted should consider where in the world they would prefer British women to travel.

Yours sincerely,
ANN FUREDI,
Director,
Birth Control Trust,
16 Mortimer Street, W1,
birthcontroltrust.co.uk
July 17.

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, The call for an urgent review of the 1967 Abortion Act (letter, July 17) is pertinent and timely. I presume that this call is aimed at curtailing abortion, and not the opposite. Such a review, unlike previous government reviews into embryo research or the Abortion Act, must be broad enough in scope to address the central question of the humanity of the unborn, and therefore must include in its membership those who stand by

the principle of the inherent dignity of human life from its beginnings.

There are in fact many people of all faiths and none who are disturbed by our society's complicity in what has become the routine destruction of human life, on a scale and in circumstances way beyond those envisaged when the 1967 Act was passed.

Scientific advances made over the past 30 years, especially those which allow ever younger premature babies to survive, and the dilemmas which will be raised by the possibility of artificial gestation, sharpen the underlying moral question of the right to life. A thorough and balanced review would bring to light both the current practice of abortion and what scientists now know about such matters as foetal development and pain.

I recognise that in Parliament as presently constituted there is a danger that calling for legislative reform could leave the law in a worse state than it is now. That is why a wide-ranging review and public debate are essential before any reform of the law is contemplated.

For our society, as for each of us as individuals, the first step in making any moral choice is to face up to the truth. We are in fact destroying human life on a monumental scale.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HUME,
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1,
July 19.

Potential problems in PR proposals

From Mr Bernard Black

Sir, Your Political Editor, Philip Webster, reports today that Tony Blair's go-ahead for proportional representation to be used for elections to the European Parliament in 1999 is a move that will delight electoral reform campaigners.

Yet his report adds that there is likely to be a regional list of candidates, which suggests that the Government has in mind a continental PR system rather than that which is already in operation in Northern Ireland.

There the single transferable vote operates in a constituency returning three MEPs. Thus the people have electoral power to determine who their representatives will be, within as well as between parties. It works well.

On what possible basis is some inferior form of PR to be foisted on the people of Britain? Such a move will delight no worthwhile electoral reformer.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BLACK
(General Secretary),
The Select Your Member
Voting Society (SYMOS),
PO Box 1,
Waterlooville, Hampshire,
July 16.

From Mr John Szemerey

Sir, "Some Cabinet ministers," writes Mr Webster, "are attracted by the greater control they believe a PR

system would give Labour over its European MPs."

Le volat! Under direct representation, where local people in each party choose their candidates, and where local voters decide which of the locally selected candidates should represent them in Parliament, it is possible for candidates who are out of favour with the party leadership to be selected and elected.

Under PR, candidates are put on party lists by a handful of party bosses or a committee of senior party members who only put on those who "are one of us" or who at least will toe the party line. Once elected by PR, MPs have to behave like the civil servants of their parties.

If Labour has decided to ignore the advice of its electoral system working group, headed by Lord Plant, it should say exactly which of the many variations of PR it wishes Britain to adopt for the Euro-elections and why.

A good way of retaining a semblance of democracy and avoiding a handful of party bosses controlling the lists of candidates would be to hold primary elections. The electorate — of the region or of the whole country, depending on which variation of PR Labour will choose — can then choose its candidates, irrespective of whether their face fits at party headquarters.

Yours faithfully,
J. SZEMEREY,
76 Marixlaan,
B-3090 Overijse, Belgium,
July 16.

Prince and the Church

From Mrs Diana M. Dean

Sir, Reflecting on the problems of the Prince of Wales, Sir Christopher Cookerell (letter, July 10) highlights the paradox: the Church has always faced: to encourage the happiness brought about by following Christian principles, while at the same time binding up the wounds of those damaged by ignoring them.

The need to which Sir Christopher refers for the Church to "counter cruelty and selfishness" indeed lies at the heart of its wish to steer young girls from fertility-threatening sexual diseases, and confused young men from changing sexual partners every few weeks. It would also encourage those with marital difficulties to discover anew the good in each other, rather than commit adultery. This is not "Puritan" but sensible.

Even if it does not always succeed, may not the Church be allowed to suggest ways of avoiding "getting into a tangle" while helping those who have? The book of rules is not so much "out-of-date" as unopened for a generation and largely unknown.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA M. DEAN,
Willow House, 40 South Street,
Comberton, Cambridge,
July 17.

Improving the line

From Mrs Jane Woolrich

Sir, The idea of motorist-friendly "parkway" railway stations near motorway junctions (report and leading article, July 15) is an interesting one, and surely good if it takes at least a few (usually under-occupied) cars off the road.

However, perhaps the rail companies could do more to gain passengers by advertising their services more widely and imaginatively. Too many long-standing residents of this neighbourhood appear to be unaware of the number of trains calling at

Opera House tributes

From the Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, I was pleased to see Sir Peter Hall pay tribute to the previous general directors of the Royal Opera House (letter, July 16). However, the specific intention of Monday's *Farewell Gala* was to acknowledge the appeal donors, not commemorate the past.

The last performances by the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera on Friday and Saturday were dedicated to Sir Jeremy Isaacs, with generous tributes in the programme from the company directors, including listings of the many new productions during his tenure. The contribution of David Webster, John Tooley and Jeremy Isaacs had been acknowledged in speeches after Saturday's performance.

Moreover, we should not forget that Nelson surveys from a lofty height because of the support of his column; it therefore seems fitting that those to whom tribute was paid in the gala speeches were the artists and staff who worked so tirelessly for those directors.

Yours faithfully,
CHADLINGTON,
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2,
July 17.

Bridgewater station, and some indeed think the station has closed. Actually in the 20 or so years I have lived here the service has greatly improved.

I wrote to the local train operator suggesting it advertised in the local press. To my surprise the reply was that because of its limited budget it only advertised in areas where a lot of people used the trains already.

What is unfortunate is that, despite the improved service, the Bridgewater station is not permanently staffed, with the result that one of Brunel's original stations, attractively and extensively restored a few years ago, is now prey to vandals.

Yours sincerely,
JANE WOOLRICH,
Canal Side,
Huntworth, Bridgewater, Somerset,
July 15.

Demolishing the Lindisfarne myth

From Professor David N. Dumville

Sir, There is no admissible evidence that the so-called "Lindisfarne Gospels", much in the news of late (report and leading article July 3; letters, July 5; report, "Medieval 'gospel factory' site found", July 14), were written at (or even owned by) Lindisfarne.

The legend is based on what Aldred — a late 10th-century insomniac who brought his way into the community of St Cuthbert at Chester-le-Street (the successor church after Lindisfarne was finally abandoned in the 9th century) — wrote in this gospel book. No means of verifying his assertions has ever been found; to accept them would be the equivalent of allowing unsupported testimony by a modern-day commentator on events of the first half of the 18th century.

Ten years ago the Oxford historian Professor James Campbell pointedly noted the absence of hard information for this manuscript's origin. In 1992 the Dublin palaeographer William O'Sullivan pointed out that the form of the book would be much better explained if it had originated at the twin monastery of Monkwearmouth-Jarrow — an important observation which would probably further require that we place the production of this gospel book no earlier than the middle of the 8th century.

So much else in modern scholarship about Anglo-Saxon England has come to depend on the notion that this book was written at Lindisfarne circa 700 that the idea is unlikely to be easily dislodged — but dislodged it should be. The "Lindisfarne Gospels" were probably written in the Kingdom of Northumbria; but there are precious few other probabilities on offer. Yesterday's brief report from Lindisfarne does not affect that conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
D. N. DUMVILLE,
Girton College, Cambridge,
July 15.

Brass eagles

From Mr Graham Chaine

Sir, The watery fate of the ancient lectern of Newstead Abbey (letter, July 14) was not untypical. Before the Reformation, every major church had an eagle lectern in the sanctuary to bear the Gospel, and a two-sided desk in the choir for the music books. Only about 44 medieval brass lecterns survive in England, nearly half in East Anglia; five are double-deck ones. Those not jettisoned at the Reformation perished during the Civil War or the 18th century.

In Urbino Cathedral and St Mark's, Venice, are English lecterns probably plundered during the Reformation. Westminster Abbey's lecterns were sold in 1549 as "monuments of idolatry and superstition". The eagle lectern at Canterbury Cathedral was destroyed by troops in 1642, and a pelican lectern looted from Durham Cathedral in 1650.

William Cole, the Cambridgeshire antiquary, mentions one at Furdham in 1745 that had been "buried in the sand during Oliver's usurpation"; another near by at Isleham was recovered from the fen in the 19th century. In Cambridge, Caius College sold its lectern in 1658. Trinity jettisoned its in 1744. Corpus Christi its in 1744.

Medieval lecterns survive at Merton and Corpus Christi Colleges, Oxford; at Eton; at King's and Christ's Colleges, Cambridge; at St George's Chapel, Windsor; at Exeter, Norwich and Peterborough Cathedrals; and at King's Lynn, Yeovil, Southampton, Lowestoft, Coventry, Oundle, Bristol and Newcastle.

The majority of the survivors are more likely to be of English, probably East Anglian, manufacture than, as once thought, Flemish. They are rare and priceless survivors from the great age of English ecclesiastical art.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINE,
35 The Albemarle,
Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex.

As old as you feel

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, The onset of middle-age (letters, June 12 and 18) can, in my experience, be quite precisely dated. It is when you are incapable of understanding how to send a letter to *The Times* by e-mail even though you have such an address. (Please do not send me your usual charming letter of acknowledgement by e-mail — I won't know how to retrieve it.)

Yours faithfully,
B. THWAITES,
Miltonhorpe,
Winchester, Hampshire.
bthwaites@edl.pipex.com
July 18.

From Mrs Pam Robinson

Sir, There is an expression used by the medical profession that confirms our entry into middle age.

Last week I was admitted to hospital for a minor operation. The nurse who took my blood pressure announced that it was "excellent ... for your age". I am 51.

Yours sincerely,
P. ROBINSON,
48 St John's Way,
Sandbach, Cheshire,
July 18.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH

Sir James Goldsmith, tycoon and founder of the Referendum Party, died of cancer on July 19 aged 64. He was born on February 24, 1933.

James Goldsmith was one of the most charismatic, controversial, and colourful tycoons of the past four decades. He possessed a distinguishing trait that kept him apart from most of his mercantile rivals and contemporaries. He was a singularly bold and fearless risk-taker, and boldness became his friend.

His combination of restless energy, nerve and the gambler's instinct gave the Anglo-French Goldsmith one of the largest recent self-made fortunes until the coming of the personal computer brought wealth of an even greater magnitude. But Goldsmith's later years were marked by much of his personal capital to cajole or browbeat others into accepting his political ideas. He was elected as a French Member of the European Parliament in 1994 but became utterly disillusioned with the European political project and devoted himself to warning against the growth of a superstate. In Britain, however, his Referendum Party was outflanked by the two major parties when both pledged themselves to hold a referendum before entering a European single currency.

Nevertheless, Goldsmith found his political failure in Britain hard to bear, as was clear from his extraordinary outburst at the declaration of the poll in Putney, where he won barely 1,500 votes at the general election last May. For him this outcome was all the more devastating as Putney was almost home territory, his house on nearby Ham Common in Richmond providing the centre of the glamorous network that was the Referendum Party.

Politics and glamour were no strangers to Goldsmith, whose father Frank was a friend of the young Winston Churchill and had gone on to be a Conservative MP for eight years, 1910-18. This was no mean achievement for someone whose family had arrived in Britain from Paris in 1894, with the surname of Goldschmidt.

The Goldsmiths were distant cousins of the Rothschilds, a banking dynasty also founded in the Frankfurt ghetto, and could also claim to be a family that carried great weight with European governments for more than 200 years. The Goldsmiths lacked the flamboyance and flair of the Rothschilds but, with another branch of cousins, the Bischoffshausens, they became a powerful force in cross-frontier banking. They helped to finance the victorious North in the American Civil War, as well as funding the emerging European railway network.

Most of the family left Frankfurt when Bismarck's Prussian troops ended the city's ancient independence in 1866. Goldsmith's grandparents moved to Paris, but their stay there was short-lived and not a success. They then moved to London and within a year the family had a stylish house in Mayfair and a 2,500-acre estate near Newmarket in Suffolk.

Jimmy Goldsmith's father, Frank, who had arrived in Britain at the age of 16 and who in 1904 had defeated George Bernard Shaw for a seat on the London County Council, was the first member of the family to adopt the name Goldsmith. This did not, however, save him from getting into trouble as an MP with his Stormont constituents when a wave of anti-German feeling swept the country on the outbreak of the First World War.

But Frank's second son Jimmy (the first, and older by five years, was the well-known ecologist Teddy Goldsmith) was born long after that war was safely over — his father being 55 at the time of his birth. His mother was 25 years younger and, proud as he was of his German Jewish ancestry, the young Goldsmith was not less proud of the beauty of a peasant family in the Auvergne, from whom he acquired his intense blue eyes. His round, boyish face was, though, that of his father — who had first encountered his mother while conducting an illicit affair with her elder, married sister.

Both father and son were accomplished, serial adulterers, and Jimmy Goldsmith was wholly impervious to any criticism of his promiscuity. By contrast, any attacks that affected his reputation in the world of commerce were met with a ferocity that was almost unrivalled in modern times.

His father, who had returned to live in France after the First World War, came back to Britain when the second one broke out. He had remained a director of the Savoy and its associate hotel, Claridge's, where the management instantly made a suite available to the family. But Frank's attempts to serve his adopted country

were rejected on grounds of age (he was already 62), so the parents took their two sons to the Bahamas. Here both of them, but particularly the younger boy, became fearsome delinquents and were sent away as a result to a boarding school in Canada. Even though the school was strict, this experience entirely failed to curb the young Jimmy's excesses. It was fully characteristic of the future tycoon that he should have disregarded all attempts at supervision — at the age of ten he took off for New York and booked himself into the Waldorf-Astoria, where he was discovered several days later by his worried teachers and frantic parents.

After the war, Eton was selected as the school that would shape and mould Jimmy Goldsmith into an English gentleman — but this was to prove another hopeless endeavour. The young Etonian, conscious of the family's interest in hotels, would throw grand parties for his friends in the better hostilities of Windsor as well as seeking his schoolmates' company on forbidden outings to the town's racetracks. Mathematics was the only school subject that attracted his interest. It was an enthusiasm which lasted a lifetime, as did his friendship with an Etonian contemporary, Charles Hambro, who at the family bank of Hambro's was to become Goldsmith's financier and adviser in many of his business adventures. Another fellow pupil was Mark Birley, the night-club owner whose first wife, Annabel, was to become Goldsmith's third wife.

The turf financed Goldsmith's liberation from Eton just months before he turned 16. He laid out £10 on a three-horse accumulator bet at a minor meeting at Lewes in Sussex, and scooped a draw of some £8,000 — the equivalent in today's money of £55,000. Goldsmith immediately threw a dinner of celebration for his friends, not least to show them that a man of his means should not be a schoolboy, even if the academy was Eton.

Goldsmith's sudden flight to join his brother at Oxford — he hid at one stage in the cupboard of Paul Johnson's rooms at Magdalen — was grudgingly accepted both by the school authorities and by his parents. It marked the beginning of his real education — in hedonism, gambling and sex. He fell in with his elder brother's circle of undergraduate friends, such as John Aspinall, later the casino proprietor and zoo-keeper, and the publisher Anthony Blond. It was not long before he had lost all his money.

Penniless, he returned to Paris to face the disapproval of his parents and a debt burden of some £2,000. His debts were paid off by his father, on the condition that Jimmy, who had dual nationality, did National Service in Britain. Goldsmith emerged as a second lieutenant and was later to admit that he found the experience rewarding.

On his return to Paris, his brother Teddy introduced Goldsmith to Isabel Patino, the daughter of the Bolivian tin magnate Don Antenor Patino, who had brought his daughter to France in search of an eligible, titled suitor. The two fell in love and Goldsmith informed Patino of their intention to marry. Patino was not impressed — Goldsmith was Jewish and a playboy — and he arranged for his daughter, who was only 18, to be chaperoned to Casablanca, but changed his mind when he learnt that Goldsmith had hired a private plane to dash to Morocco in pursuit.

Goldsmith, however, had discovered the change of plan and flew straight back to Paris, where he contacted Isabel and encouraged her to elope with him to England. His solicitors then arranged a furtive marriage in Scotland. The mission was accomplished, despite the efforts of Señor Patino, his lawyers and private detectives who had given hot pursuit, as had a host of journalists. The eloquent and secret wedding were the stuff of front pages all around the world.

Just three months later, the fairytale had a tragic ending. Isabel suffered a massive cerebral haemorrhage and died 12 hours after a daughter, Isabel, had been delivered by Caesarean section. The funeral was almost a state occasion. The continuing bad blood between Patino and Goldsmith, however, meant Goldsmith had to go to court to retain custody of his daughter.

Goldsmith needed to make money and decided to expand a fragile and near worthless pharmaceutical company handed to him by his brother Teddy. He obtained French distribution rights for certain US drugs and expanded the business rapidly. But inexperience was to inhibit him. The business was soon facing bankruptcy and the strain caused Goldsmith to lose his hair.

Creditors were closing in when he was saved by a nationwide bank strike, which allowed him to seek a buyer for the business and clear his debts. He learnt



much from this episode, and the secretary who helped him through this crisis, Ginette Lery, became his lover, then step-mother to Isabel and mother of two of his children.

His second pregnancy dissuaded Goldsmith from divorcing Ginette and marrying instead the striking aristocratic model and 1958 debutante of the year, Sally Crichton-Stuart, with whom he struck up a tempestuous relationship. He did not hide his emotions from either woman; to have done so he would have regarded as being hypocritical — a British trait that this "outsider" could never tolerate. He did not fret when his paramour later married the Aga Khan.

By this time Goldsmith was in funds from a slimming products company he had established in France but he yearned for acceptance and commercial influence in Britain, a country he felt had treated his father rather shabbily. He bought into a small chain of chemist shops in Britain with an Israeli Jew he had met in Paris, Selim Zilkha, and they expanded the business that had hitherto been controlled by Sir Charles Clore. But the venture, which diversified away from pharmacies, sapped his energies and much of his capital. Reluctantly, he sold his half-share in a business that eventually became globally famous — Mothercare.

Goldsmith sought to bring his slimming foods concept to Britain and acquired control of Procea Products, a small quoted company that made low-calorie bread. But he needed risk capital to fuel his ambitions and turned to Sir Isaac Wolfson, founder of Great Universal Stores, which remains one of the UK's largest companies.

Wolfson loaned Goldsmith £1 million at an interest rate of 100 per cent. Goldsmith readily defended this usurious rate of interest. Wolfson took a risk, he said, and it was quite right to demand a fantastic return "because he could have lost the lot". Goldsmith renamed his company Cavenham, after his father's former country estate, and expanded it rapidly through acquisitions. He was now up and running, though there were moments when Cavenham nearly faltered. And, to compensate for his loss of Crichton-

Stuart, he took up with Annabel Birley, born Lady Annabel Vane-Tempest-Stewart, second daughter and third child of the 8th Marquess of Londonderry. She already had three children by Goldsmith's old friend from Eton, Mark Birley. When Goldsmith later married her in 1978, he immortally, if not originally, observed that every time a man marries his mistress he creates a job vacancy. But he did not abandon Ginette Lery after his divorce, or their French home and family.

The death of his father at the age of 89 in 1967 caused Goldsmith considerable grief. He later admitted what many had already suspected: much of what he set out to do was to satisfy his father's ambitions for him. Both felt themselves to be outsiders and mavericks. Moreover, Goldsmith's determination to father as many children as he did was in keeping with his father's wish that the Goldsmith name should figure on as many British birth-registers as possible.

Goldsmith bought a French bank and a holding company for his British and French interests, and the transaction bought with it Madame Gilberte Beaux, who became his key adviser and confidante throughout his years as corporate raider, asset-stripper and empire builder. The turning point for Cavenham was the £14.5 million takeover of Bovril in 1971, defeating Rowntree Macintosh for the prize. He stripped the dairies and South American beef ranches from the business and recouped almost all the initial purchase price. This provided Goldsmith with fresh funds for the great leap forward: the 1972 takeover of Allied Suppliers, the vast grocery chain controlled by Unilever, which sold its control to Goldsmith. At a luncheon at the Ritz on the day he stunned the City of London with his coup, Goldsmith and his guest sampled the bottles of £80 wine. All were rejected by Goldsmith for being "sour".

Goldsmith's deal-making gathered impetus when he befriended Jim Slater, another asset-stripper, whose empire faltered in the 1974 banking crisis. Goldsmith later helped the Bank of England rescue Slater, Walker, though there is some evidence that the Bank also helped to prop up Goldsmith's own

empire during those testing times. In 1975-76 Goldsmith's name went from the City pages to the front pages of national newspapers with his celebrated attack on *Private Eye* and the controversial knighthood awarded him in Harold Wilson's notorious "lavender" Resignation Honours List. Goldsmith remarked at the time (in a phrase scarcely calculated to endear him to the British public): "You have heard of the power of the press. Now you will discover the power of money." The legal struggle with *Private Eye* became one of the most acrimonious libel battles of the century, but the settlement he eventually was persuaded to accept — in face of widespread condemnation of his vindictiveness — cost Goldsmith any chance he ever had of realising his ambition to own newspapers. *The Observer* and the *Daily Express* were at various times among his targets, as at one stage was *The Times*.

Goldsmith's French company, Générale Occidentale, ultimately acquired Cavenham, and few institutions were sad to see the Goldsmith vehicle removed from the London Stock Exchange. But Goldsmith had by this time turned his business attentions to North America, where he felt his style of corporate raiding would be welcomed rather than shunned. He also tried to start a French equivalent of the *Financial Times*, but abandoned the plan when his advisers told him French business journalists were likely to prove corruptible. So he bought the weekly *L'Express* instead, its success partly compensating him for the total failure in Britain of his magazine *Now!*, which lasted less than two years between 1979 and 1981.

Goldsmith's trophies in the United States included Diamond International, a \$1 billion grouping of forests and pulp and paper interests. Adroit financing meant he had, in effect, bought the company for nothing. He was similarly successful with another paper group, Crown Zellerbach. Among other things, he also added oil to his portfolio, which was centred on supermarkets, great providers of cash.

In 1986 Goldsmith eyed Goodyear Tire and Rubber. He admitted at the time he was, at a "conservative estimate", already a dollar billionaire, but when he harried Goodyear the climate was changing and some of Goldsmith's famed Wall Street associates and junk bond kings were already on thin ice. The ice would eventually crack and they were financially drained. Just ahead of the global stockmarket crash of October 1987, Goldsmith displayed remarkable prescience by turning his assets into cash with the sale of the French companies to a group headed by Compagnie Générale d'Electricité. He then proceeded to build a vast retreat in Mexico. A niece of the Comte de Paris, Laure Boulay de la Meurthe, had by this time filled the vacancy created by his marriage to Annabel Birley.

Goldsmith's last great corporate adventure was in 1989, when he teamed up with his good gambling friend, Kerry Packer and distant cousin Lord Rothschild, to bid £13 billion for BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company. Their leveraged bid to "unbundle" the company with junk bond financing failed but Goldsmith professed pleasure that the company was spurred into action and forced to deliver latent value back to shareholders.

With his enormous wealth behind him Goldsmith then espoused environmental issues, though he was to fall out with his elder brother Teddy on the merits of growing hemp as the fibre that would save the world's trees. As well as threats to the environment, Goldsmith perceived a great threat to the West from the opening of Western markets to Third World countries. This, he argued, in a best-selling book in France — published in Britain as *The Trap* (1994) — would not only cripple the industries of the West but eventually destroy its political institutions as well.

Goldsmith was fully aware of his fatal disease while leading his Referendum Party in the recent general election. But he never allowed his consciousness of mortality to impede his zeal or to cap his determination. It may have been the most expensive campaign ever seen in British politics — at least in terms of the votes that were garnered — but it was also one of the most gallant.

James Goldsmith had one daughter by his first wife, Isabel Patino, one son and daughter by his second wife, Ginette Lery, two sons and one daughter — Jermuna, now the wife of the former Pakistani cricket captain Imran Khan — from his third and final marriage to Lady Annabel Birley, and a daughter and a son by his last long-term mistress, Laure Boulay de la Meurthe. All his children and his second and third wives survive him.

PROFESSOR KEN HALEY

Professor Kenneth Haley, FBA, historian of 17th-century England and The Netherlands, died on July 2 aged 77. He was born on April 19, 1920.

KEN HALEY worked with equal distinction on British and Dutch political history in the second half of the 17th century. Personally, he embodied the solid virtues of the Dutch Republic rather than the extravagances of Restoration England, but he wrote brilliantly and extensively on both countries.

He was as much at home in the archives of Paris and The Hague as with English sources, and as expert at unravelling the intricacies of European diplomacy as he was at illuminating the domestic politics of the United Provinces.

He was best known in Britain for his biography of the 1st Earl of Shaftesbury, 1621-83, published in 1968, which was a monumental achievement, but *The Dutch in the Seventeenth Century* (1972) and *Politics in the Reign of Charles II* (1985) are also widely known. All his major works have the same enduring qualities: authoritative, meticulous scholarship, fluent composition, judicious judgment and a patient concern to arrive at the truth.

Kenneth Harold Dobson Haley was a Yorkshireman and a Methodist. After losing his mother at an early age, he was sent to Huddersfield College, from where he went on to Oxford. He read Modern History at Balliol from 1938 to 1940, when the war interrupted his studies.

He joined the Royal Engineers and, while keeping accounts in the Middle East, displayed a dazzling ability to add up long rows of figures rapidly in his head.

In 1945 he returned to Oxford, where he had the good fortune to be tutored by R.W. Southern and J.E.C. Hill. He succeeded in gaining a first in 1946, followed by a B.Litt under the supervision of Sir Keith Feiling.

In 1947 he became an assistant lecturer at Sheffield University. He joined a department with only three academic staff, and although there were few honours students, he shouldered a heavy load of teaching and essay-marking.

When he was promoted to be Professor of Modern History in 1962, preparations were being made for an expansion of staff and student numbers, and the attendant difficulties proved considerable. He viewed expansion with mixed feelings and he had a tough time with student discounts and demands for syllabus changes. But no one could accuse him of not taking seriously his responsibilities as Professor of Modern History.

When lecturing he could be both heavy-going and utterly sparkling. He was completely devoted to the task of encouraging the personal development of the undergraduates who came to Sheffield to read history.

He devoted much time to the Historical Association, of which he was vice-president for many years. He was a tireless attendee at conferences and meetings of the local Sheffield branch. He was an effective Dean of the Faculty of Arts between 1979 and 1981, and he was famously shrewd and successful when making departmental appointments.

He was a member of the Anglo-Netherlands Mixed Cultural Commission from 1976 to 1982, and of the William and Mary Tercentenary Trust from 1985 to 1989.

Throughout his long career, he fought against physical infirmities, and his character and good humour were evident throughout. He suffered for years from arthritis, and the surgical boots he wore were heavy; but he never complained as he clambered around historical sites, refusing to stay behind. He also suffered from very poor eyesight.

In 1973 he was informed by his doctors that total blindness was eventually certain, if not imminent. The Vice-Chancellor immediately gave him leave for a year — the first sabbatical leave he had ever had — to make progress with his book on Temple and de Witt. Remarkably, not least because de Witt's handwriting is nearly illegible to the best of eyes, he finished the book and published it in 1986 as *An English Diplomat in the Low Countries: Sir William Temple and John de Witt, 1665-72*.

He retired in 1982 and was elected to the Fellowship of the British Academy in 1987. After this he became wholly blind. The onset of diabetes added to the struggle, but he retained his formidable calculatory skills and found enjoyment in computer chess.

His wife, Iris, herself an Oxford graduate and a Yorkshirewoman, gave him constant support throughout their very happy marriage. She survives him, as do their two daughters and their son.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Dr Michael Archer, Assistant Curate, St Peter, Littleover, Derby; to be Assistant Curate (Team Vicar designate), Edgware St Andrew's (London).
The Rev Roger Bould, Assistant to the Bishop of Wolverhampton (Lichfield), to be Pastoral Auxiliary to the Bishop of Lichfield and Associate Priest, Stafford Team Ministry (same diocese).
The Rev Richard Burbridge, Vicar, All Saints, Fishponds (Bristol), to be Assistant Priest (Team Vicar designate), Bishopston and Bristol St Andrew with St Bartholomew (same diocese).
The Rev Dr David Cantrell, Associate Anglican Chaplain, Nottingham Trent University (Southwell), to be Vicar, Porchester St James (same diocese).
The Rev Alan Cross, Vicar, St Barnabas, Woodford Green (Chesham), to be Assistant Canon of Chesham Cathedral.

The Rev John Curran, Curate, Eastwood (Southwell), to be Priest-in-Charge, Matlock Bath and Cromford (Derby).
The Rev Andrew Dow, Vicar, St John the Baptist, Knowle and Dean of Solihull (Birmingham), to be Vicar, Clifton Christ Church with Emmanuel (Bristol).
Canon Christopher Hayward, Rector, Union and Rural Dean of Skipton (Bradford), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Burnall with Kilsome (same diocese).
The Rev May Heffernan, Assistant Curate, St Matthew, Nicholls (Birmingham), to be Priest-in-Charge, St Margaret Ward End (same diocese).
The Rev Terry Henderson, Vicar, Aston, Cantlow and Wilmore with Billesley (Coventry), to be Vicar, St Peter-in-Thames (Canterbury).
The Rev Philip Throver, Vicar, St Mark, South Norwood (Southwark), to be Vicar, St James, Malden (same diocese).
The Rev Jennie Wajski, non-stipendiary Curate, Ulfham and

Widdrington (Newcastle), to be Honorary Joint Priest-in-Charge, Longhorsley and Hebron, with special responsibility for Hebron (same diocese).
The Rev Robin Waller, teacher, Barnard Castle School (Durham), to be Priest-in-Charge, Bishopric with Great Stainion and Redmarshall (in plurality).
The Rev Carol Williams, non-stipendiary minister, All Saints, High Wycombe (Oxford), to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Holy Trinity, Penn (same diocese).
The Rev David Willows, non-stipendiary Curate, St Mary the Virgin with St Cross and St Peter in the East, Oxford (Oxford), to be Assistant Chaplain (half-time), Warneford, Park and Littlemore Hospitals, Oxford (same diocese).
The Rev Raymond Yates, Team Vicar, Drypool Team Ministry (York), to be Minister-in-Charge, Church of Unity, Ramsden and Associate Vicar, All Saints,

Orpington (Rochester).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Gillian Dyer, Team Vicar, Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, Carlisle Team Ministry (Carlisle), to retire August 31.
The Rev Terence Dyer, NSM Curate, Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, Carlisle Team Ministry (Carlisle), to retire August 31.
The Rev Keith Huxley, Rector, Gaishead Team Ministry (Durham), to retire September 30.
The Rev Alan Oates, Rector, Stella, Blaydon-on-Tyne (Durham), to retire October 31.
The Rev Jeffrey Pierce, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Penn (Oxford), to retire October 31.
The Rev Leslie Steel, Chaplain, Christ Church, Lausanne, Switzerland (Europe), to resign September 1.
Correction
The Rev Peter Kashouris, Assistant Curate, St John's, Hampstead (London), to be Rector, St Hilda, Hartlepool (Durham).

DEATH OF THE POPE THE LAST SCENE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)
ROME, July 20
Pope Leo XIII died at four minutes past 4 this afternoon.
The news so long expected seemed to come almost as a surprise. There was nothing in this morning's bulletin that struck a graver note of warning than before. At 8.30 we were told:
"During the night the Holy Father rested only at short intervals. The general condition is still serious. Pulsation 94, breathing 32, temperature 36.5."
During Dr. Mazzoni's visit the Pope recognized the physician, who spoke to him. At 11.30, however, there was a marked change for the worse: the exhaustion of strength seemed complete, and the breathing, too, was difficult. Warning was sent to all the Cardinals. Cardinal Vannutelli, the Grand Penitentiary, was already in waiting, and a little before 12 entered the chamber with five penitentiaries and began prayers for the dying.
Mgr. Pifferi, the Pope's sacristan, then gave the absolution in *articulo mortis* in the presence of Cardinals Vannutelli, Rampolla,

ON THIS DAY

July 21, 1903
Gioacchino Pecci (1810-1903) was crowned as Pope Leo XIII on March 3, 1878, after the death of Pius IX. In 1891 an encyclical, Rerum Novarum — on the conditions of the working classes — won for him the name of the "working man's Pope".
Oreglia, Satolfi, and Vives y Tuto. During the ceremony his Holiness had shown little sign of consciousness; on its conclusion his three nephews entered the chamber, and their presence as they knelt at the bedside seemed to attract his attention. With what appeared to be a supreme effort of force his Holiness raised his hand in the act of blessing.
After that the doctors came and went, but there was nothing to be done but to await the end. The breathing, increasingly difficult, still continued for some three hours more. At four minutes past 4 there was a slight convulsive movement, and the breathing had stopped.

Leo XIII was dead. Until the end he had preserved the full use of his mental faculties. However low the flame of life flickered in the dying body, there was no darkening of the steady radiance of his intellect. His was the courage that was content to wait and endure. "Have courage, Holy Father," said Cardinal Rampolla when taking leave of him the other day. "Courage?" His Holiness replied, with gentle irony, "Have I no courage?"
There was indeed a quality he never lacked. It shone out from the very face of the man. There are many who must remember his appearance when he was carried into St. Peter's on the occasion of the last jubilee. The fragile form, the wasted pallor of the depleted face gave the idea of infinite fatigue; but in the deep sunk eyes there still lurked unquenched a fire that betrayed the indomitable soul. We know from the pathetic lines of his own verses how heavy the burden sometimes was.
At summas clavos, immenso pondere manus
Tot tibi gestum annos, haec mediare genitrix
The great keys have been now surrendered, and the weight, borne for so many years with so gallant and unflinching a courage, has been lifted at last.

THE TIMES GREAT

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Time for Naseem Hamed to face stronger opposition
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Jan Ullrich leads the Tour de France
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JULY 21 1997

PARNEVIK DENIED AGAIN IN DRAMATIC FINISH AT TROON



Leonard's face shows the steely determination that characterised his assured final round of 65 and brought him victory in the 126th Open Championship at Royal Troon yesterday. Photograph: Ian Waldie

Leonard storms down Open road

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THEY breed golfers of exceptional talent in Texas, just as Wales unearths brilliant stand-off halves and Italy produces magnificent tenors. In Justin Leonard, the new Open champion, another outstanding golfer has arrived from the Lone Star state. Leonard, who comes from Dallas, is a worthy member of a line of golfers that includes Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Lee Trevino, Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite.

Leonard is a man, almost manically tidy and eerily composed. Some golfers may wear their emotions on their sleeve; Leonard buries his facial expressions beneath a black peaked cap. His star has been

rising since he emerged on the US Tour in 1994. If there were any doubts hitherto as to whether or not he is ready for fame, this victory over an outstanding field of golfers has removed them. At 25, Leonard is now unarguably one of the gilded youths of the United States, young men in their twenties who are talented and thrusting their way to the forefront of the game. Tiger Woods, the 21-year-old who won the Masters in April, is the cornerstone of this group, which also includes Phil Mickelson, 27.

Leonard now takes his rightful place among the generation who are shouldering aside golf's great and good. With victory in the US Open by Ernie Els, 27, Leonard's



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Ryder Cup puzzle 26
Lynne Tross 27
What they said 27

success means that all three major championships this year have been won by men who are in their 20s.

Last year Kite said of Leonard: "He's going to win big

and he is going to win often. It's only a question of time." Kite knew what he was talking about and he delayed his journey to Glasgow airport to stand by the 18th green and support his young friend in his triumph. "Welcome to the Ryder Cup team," Kite said when he congratulated Leonard. It was Leonard's fourth Open and only the second time he had played all four rounds.

Leonard's play in the fourth round over the sunlit fairways of Royal Troon was deserving of a fanfare of trumpets. Not since Jim Barnes, a Cornishman, won the 1925 Open, has a golfer come from five strokes behind to lift the famous claret jug. It was a round worthy of comparison with Johnny Miller's 63 to win the US Open

at Oakmont in 1973. Severiano Ballesteros's 65 when he captured the 1988 Open, Greg Norman's 63 at Royal St George's when he won the 1993 Open and the 67 with which Nick Faldo upturned Norman at Augusta in 1996. There were 16 men under par at the start of the day; Leonard was the only one to score in the 60s.

Leonard looks like the sort of young man mothers want their daughters to bring home. Clean-cut and good looking, he models those true American country club clothes for Ralph Lauren — button-down shirts and chinos. He wears tasselled loafers, sunglasses and drives a Land Rover. At his flat in Dallas, which he shares with his sister, there is a pile of thank you notes on the

Hole (par)		yards	strokes
Under par			Over par
1st (4)	364	4	10th (4) 438 8
2nd (4)	391	3	11th (4) 463 4
3rd (4)	379	3	12th (4) 431 4
4th (5)	557	4	13th (4) 466 4
5th (5)	210	4	14th (5) 179 3
6th (5)	577	4	15th (4) 457 4
7th (4)	402	3	16th (5) 542 4
8th (3)	126	3	17th (3) 223 2
9th (4)	423	3	18th (4) 452 4
OUT (36)		3,429 33	IN (35) 3,650 34
		TOTAL 65	

kitchen table waiting to be posted. When his sister moved in to the apartment, Justin made a rule: beds have to be made every morning. "He makes lists of lists," his sister

said, speaking, presumably, in the few rare moments she has free from keeping the flat clean and tidy.

Leonard's swing is that of a man who grew up in the winds of Texas. It is flat at the top of the backswing, even flatter at the finish. The echoes of Hogan are evident.

There were two crucial moments in the final round, moments that defined Leonard as the man worthy of becoming the 126th Open champion. The first came when he holed a putt of ten feet to save his par on the 11th. On the 15th, it was another putt to save par that helped him apply more of the pressure that was ultimately to cause Parnevik to buckle. This putt was of 15 feet. Then came the final blow, the one that really

finished off Parnevik. On the 17th, he hit a three-iron to the back of the green and then, 35 feet from the flag, holed the putt.

"It hasn't hit me yet," an emotional Leonard said as his performance was acclaimed. "I knew when I was behind I had to make the putts on the front nine I had missed yesterday. I also knew I had to make a couple of birdies on the back nine. I was surprised how calm I was before the 18th. A wonderful day, a wonderful week."

Over dinner on Thursday night, Kite said to Leonard: "You are tenth on the [Ryder Cup] list. Why don't you go ahead and take care of the Ryder Cup team?" With one brilliant round, Leonard did just that.

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GOLF

Secret of success lay with control

By ROB HUGHES

THE claret jug, that most coveted piece of silverware of the Royal and Ancient for the winner of the Open, is travelling to Dallas, literally in the lap of Justin Leonard.

The Texan, putting his victory down to the virtues of preparation, practice, self-discipline and self-belief, said: "I am trying to book another seat next to me, or else this jug's gonna sit right in my lap until I get it home and get a carpenter in, because I wouldn't have the skills to make a proper place for it."

He had steadied his emotions following the tear that he shed at the back of the 18th tee, after beating Jesper Parnevik and Darren Clarke by three shots.

"That tear, I was just thinking about my family — my family — I don't have a real large family, my parents, my grandmother, my sister — Randy Smith and the members at Royal Oaks in Dallas. I am thinking about how crazy things are gonna be in the locker-room, and how big my bill is going to be when we've celebrated and broken things up."

He had prepared, on both Friday and Saturday night, with dinner for two, himself and his caddy. "I slept pretty good. I didn't wake until my alarms went off, but I'd say the greatest change in the last year has been believing in myself. When I see those guys, Tiger [Woods] and Ernie [Els] performing the way they did, I got to thinking that maybe it is OK to go out and win a tournament like this, being the age I am."

He is 25, an emotional man, a mite surprised, or so it seemed in the hour of victory, by what he had achieved. "It probably won't sink in to-night, tomorrow, even next week. I am hoping it takes a little while to come to terms with it. You know I was just thinking how last year I missed the cut and I saw the

engraver working on Tom Lehman's name on the jug. Smith, his coach, had counselled him before he came to Britain, not to be afraid to practice relentlessly. "Get over there and get to know the golf course. Play 27 holes in a day, play the golf course, and don't worry about trying to change your swing or anything."

The new champion believes that he profited from good "distance control" and that, although he is not up there with the powerful hitters off the tee, he could "hang in there" by controlling what he did and hitting as many fairways as possible.

"One thing I have never had control of is the weather," he said. "I wake up, I see what it's like, and I go out from there. But watching Tiger Woods at Augusta, I got to thinking that the guys with the strongest mental outlook are going to do the best here."

He sensed his victory on the 15th where he made a 15-foot par. But it was the 17th, where he holed a 30-foot putt, that "made the hairs stand up on the back of my neck."

It was there that he "saw a little spot near the hole, aimed for it... and suddenly, behind me, everyone was going nuts. I knew then that I couldn't lose — I had to make at least a play-off, but because I was worried about being a little pumped up, I decided to leave my driver in the bag at 18 and played conservative with a three-wood off the tee."

The first man he remembers greeting him outside the clubhouse was Tom Kite, the United States Ryder Cup captain. "I guess he was already over at Prestwick, ready to go home, and I was real touched that Tom came back for me. The first words that he said were 'Welcome to the Ryder Cup team.'"

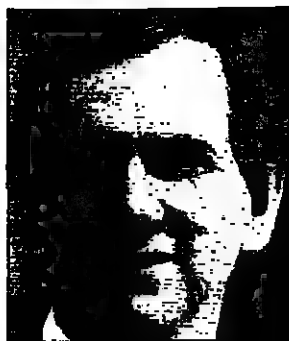
Justin Leonard, a man who won two prizes in one round of golf.



OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP '97

Tiger serene amid trials of Troon

ROB HUGHES



At Royal Troon

A Tiger Woods walked up the 18th fairway for the last time yesterday, he was confronted with a huge banner: "Troon takes Tigers". It was true and the young man had the composure to acknowledge it. He looked across to his right, gave the cheeky bearers of that message a beaming smile, and strode on to finish his personal confrontation with the course on level par.

On Saturday, he had a 64 and no man here has done better than that. But the course, the tamer of the Tiger, had destroyed the ambitions of the quiet American on three dramatic holes. In the first round, at the 10th, he had lost three strokes to par with a seven. On the par-four 11th on the second day, he had an eight. And after his supreme effort on Saturday, he had started yesterday as though he might complete the quest of history and pull back a bigger deficit than any other winner in the final round. He was mastering the course until he came to that devious Postage Stamp, the 126-yard 8th. There his tournament virtually ended, for he bunkered, bunkered again, and then triple-putted to lose another three shots on a single hole.

"You've blown it" a cruel, rude but accurate fellow belted into his face. "That's it, the Tiger's tournament over," opined another.

Over? Those children who, by their thousands, were on the course courtesy of the inspired and splendid Royal and Ancient policy of admitting youngsters free of charge provided they brought an accompanying adult, did not desert him so readily. They followed and saw — like all of those who have walked these rounds with Woods — a competitive man give a dignified example of how to play in adversity. Inspiration seldom



Woods was unable to find his best form during the final round yesterday

visited him, yet strength of character did, strength of purpose and will. He gave an example to all of how to maintain outward serenity when inside there is every reason to despair.

There were, sadly, one or two four-mouthed youths — hoodlums one would certainly call them in football surroundings — who disturbed his equilibrium and the pleasure of walking beside him. "I heard one or two things, some things," he admitted, "but I will say no more. It serves no purpose."

His caddy, Mike "Fluff" Cowan, had an animated and long chat with his young charge before the 10th hole. "It was between me and him, it was about life, about stuff... but I'm not saying anything more about it, so you can save your breath, don't ask," the normally friendly Cowan said.

Woods was fingering a string tied like a bracelet around his left wrist. "It's for my religion, Buddhist, it denotes strength," he said. Strong indeed is the man who can take defeat in a season

when he and everyone watching expect him to out-drive and out-play the field. Could he really take eight shots off the overnight leader? For two holes, two exquisite and unvalued birdies on the 4th and 5th, it looked possible. He had used his driver at the 557-yard 4th, driven powerfully, way, way beyond 350 yards, and set up with that free and glorious swing his first under-par hole. Two shots were all he needed to conquer the 5th, a 210-yard par three: an iron off the tee and a 15-foot putt which he and Cowan

read immaculately. And in their scarlet shirts, the golfer and the minder who had looked a little distant earlier in the tournament, now appeared a partnership that could belittle the course again.

To the 6th, a hole of 577 yards. He began with a drive of 360 yards without a breath of following wind. Alas, on that green he was to miss a downhill six-foot putt, to show momentary pique, and then, at the 7th, he also missed a holeable putt.

So to his nemesis, the 8th. His nine-iron dropped on the right of the tiny green and, one bounce, plopped over the edge into one of the waiting bunkers. His ball was deeply embedded, his sand-wedge scooped it out but only on to the ridge above, and it trickled back down. For a second time he used the sand wedge, this time lofted the ball over the pin, and three-putted, his equilibrium visibly shaken.

"I still tell you that I love links golf, it is the epitome of

'Inspiration seldom visited him, yet strength of character did'

being creative," Woods said later. He had shown us some phenomenal strength, controlled fury, as well as some temperate power strokes. The point was that here was a player, even when hope was lost, attacking the greens, playing with an open face to his nature and his golf, obeying every instinct of competitive man.

He will come again, and we will flock to his name. "I would say I had an up-and-down tournament, it wasn't bad, but I had three bad holes. I can't do anything about it other than not to let it happen in the future. Like I said all through the week at Troon, I'm trying to stay patient, trying to eliminate the bogeys, trying to putt better."

Not the Tiger's tournament, the taming indeed of the visitor. But he brings a new dimension, as one saw on the backward nine, when a slender female stood beside the 16th fairway, her face, her arms, and other visible parts of bodily flesh painted in tiger stripes. "Hi Tiger, how are you doing?" Another smile. He notices everything and, defeated or not, he enjoys.

Allenby and Westwood left waiting for place among elite

By PATRICIA DAVIES

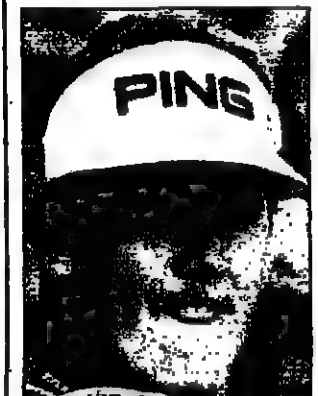
LEE WESTWOOD and Robert Allenby were two hot, dusty and disappointed young men by the end of the Open yesterday, having returned matching rounds of 72, one over par, for identical totals of 282, two under, and a share of tenth place.

The burly Englishman from Worsop and the skinny Australian from Melbourne set out behind Tom Watson and just in front of Tiger Woods, in among the elite, where they craved to be. They had birdied three at the first, to move to four under par, but that early sparkle quickly dulled and the glory was grabbed by another talented young man, Justin Leonard.

Leonard is 25, a year younger than Allenby and a year older than Westwood, and they also have great expectations. In fact, Allenby achieved so much at an early age — he almost won the Australian Open as an amateur in 1991 and did win the title three years later — that, when he struggled at first in Europe, people questioned his resilience.

They forgot that he was only 20 when he started on the PGA European tour, a shy lad from a close-knit family. Coping for himself overseas was tough and combining golf with maturing was not always a happy mix. He married, divorced, and started fulfilling the expectations last year when he won three times.

However, the season came



Westwood: aggressive

to an abrupt end in September when Allenby, who tends to be accident prone in small ways — bilistered feet from wearing new shoes, twisting ankles walking to the car — was involved in a serious car crash on the Costa del Sol. He fractured his sternum and only put in a token appearance at the Volvo Masters in October to safeguard his third place in the order of merit and an invitation to the Masters. Allenby missed the cut at Augusta and since then he has been working out in a gym six days a week, trying to build up his upper body strength — although his natural whiplash has always helped him to hit the ball a long way. He has also become the Oliver Twist of the tournament circuit, always asking for more, trying to put bulk on his spare frame — so far with no success.

That is not a problem the burly Westwood shares. Since his coach Peter Cowan encouraged him to swing more aggressively at the ball and hit it hard, Westwood has won twice, in Europe and in Japan, where Jack Nicklaus saw him belting balls on the practice ground and shook his head in wistful awe. Westwood is ambitious but his father John, who teaches maths, gives him "reality checks", reminding him it might take a school-teacher some time to earn the £449,960 Westwood won in Europe last season.

Even the £24,300 he and Allenby earned yesterday puts things in perspective.

Ballesteros facing uneasy Ryder Cup selections

Mel Webb outlines the difficult choices to be made by Europe's team captain after Jesper Parnevik's Open challenge

Strolling amid the dust and the heat of Royal Troon yesterday and watching Jesper Parnevik provide further evidence of his emergence as a power in world golf, the phrase involving pigeons, and the ransacking of them by small domesticated felids, came unbidden but irresistibly to mind. Why so? Easily explained: in a mere three words — the Ryder Cup.

A place for Parnevik in the dozy dozen who will appear for Europe in the greatest team event in golf, at Valderrama in September, has become something of a cause célèbre that seems to have been running for ever.

The protagonists are the PGA European Tour, as represented by Ken Schofield, its executive director, and Parnevik himself, who has been playing in the United States for three years and who no longer holds membership of the Tour. As such, he cannot be considered for a Ryder Cup place on the basis of money

won. On the face of it, that situation has not changed.

Parnevik is ninth in the US money-list on almost \$800,000 (about £300,000), and fifteenth in the world rankings, and yet, as a European who is not a member of the European Tour, he is not eligible for selection on merit for the team. The fact that he has earned nearly £320,000 in Europe and in the three major championships he has contested this year counts for nothing. If it were not so pitiful, it would be laughable.

All that Parnevik has to console him is that his performance at Royal Troon increases his chances of Severiano Ballesteros make him one of his two captain's selections when he makes his mind up at the end of August.

A brave, sterling performance it was, but it will not make Ballesteros's job any easier — quite the opposite, in fact.

It has been assumed for many a long month that Ballesteros would pick Nick Faldo, who was in muted form at Troon, and agonise over the last place between Parnevik and José María Olazábal. It seems hardly conceivable that Olazábal, who has made such a heroic return to the game this year after 18 months of agony in his feet, would not be picked: yet how can Ballesteros ignore a man who has finished second in the Open twice in the past four years? Whichever course he takes, Ballesteros will be unable to win.

Of those appearing on the final day, there were 16 Ameri-

cans in the top 20 in their Ryder Cup list, six more than their European counterparts. While none slipped out of contention, only a few furthered their cause to a significant extent. As the qualifying period for both teams moves into its final stages — the US team will be finalised after the US PGA Championship, which ends on August 17, the European 12 two weeks later — those who have figured large in the lists in recent weeks showed no signs of losing their form.

Darren Clarke clinched his place in the team by finishing third in the French Open at the end of June and, by finishing joint second at Royal Troon, he turned his third place in the Cup points-list to second. The man he overtook, Ian Woosnam, was never at his best at Troon; level par was just about the right finish for the little Welshman.

Colin Montgomerie, a disappointment yet again in an Open Championship, is un-

JOHNNIE WALKER RYDER CUP POINTS STANDINGS	
EUROPE	POINTS
1. D. Montgomerie	225,400
2. D. Clarke	219,590
3. I. Woosnam	205,574
4. L. Westwood	190,858
5. S. Ballesteros	173,577
6. P. Breen	173,577
7. J. B. Smith	173,577
8. N. A. Menzies	173,577
9. C. Rocco	173,577
10. J. M. Olazábal	173,577
11. P. Harrington	173,577
12. P. Broadhurst	173,577
13. S. Torrance	173,577
14. I. Garrido	173,577
15. M. Jervis	173,577
16. P. Mitchell	173,577
17. N. Faldo	173,577
18. S. McFadden	173,577
19. D. Gifford	173,577
20. R. Chapman	173,577

salable atop the castle. He seems incapable of doing justice to his stupendous talents in the only major championship to be held in his native land, but his level-par finish can be discounted. The Ryder Cup starts in 68 days' time — Montgomerie will have got over his disappointment long before then.

Of the others in challenging positions in this championship, there were signs that the best players on both teams continued in good form. Lee Westwood, hailed by Montgomerie as the best player under 30 in Europe, was not disgraced in the elevated company in which he found himself during the week — he played with Greg Norman in the first two rounds and

accompanied Robert Allenby on the last. He, too, is safe.

A little closer to that blessed position is Padraig Harrington, the strapping Dubliner, who, with his joint fifth place, moved from sixteenth place in the table to eleventh. Harrington needs one or maybe two good performances in the remaining five weeks to turn his preliminary fitting for a Ryder Cup blazer into bespoke reality.

On the American side, Justin Leonard, an inspired and courageous winner, moved from a choppy tenth to the calmer waters of third place in the US Cup table, and the manner of his victory will give Tom Kite, the US team captain, untold encouragement.

In other circumstances, Kite's European counterpart would be just as happy, but there was an appallant out on the rolling acres of Royal Troon yesterday — and a certain Swede with a quirky line in headgear did his level best to upset it.

LOMBARD TROPHY UPDATE

Now in its third year, it's already the biggest and best Pro-Am golfing event in Europe. In 1997 over 100,000 club golfers from 1,700 clubs competed in qualifying rounds for the right to partner their club professional in one of 16 Regional Finals. The 16 winning pairings gain an expenses paid trip to the Grand Final, flying to the Algarve with TAP Air Portugal between 3 and 7 October.

Lombard, the event's sponsor, is the UK's largest finance house which advances around £150 million each week to their business and personal customers — many of whom compete in the Trophy.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FINAL

It will be a case of déjà vu for Slindford Park Golf Club Pro Marcus Groombridge after reaching his second successive Lombard Grand Final — the first time that has happened in the three year history of the event.

Groombridge linked up well at the Chertem Park course with 41-year-old amateur partner Neil Jones to notch a six-under 66 winning on a comeback from Basford Park.

"We're determined to go for it this year," said Groombridge

defiantly who finished twelfth in last year's Grand Final.

MIDLANDS REGIONAL FINAL

Clacton Golf Club's pro Stuart Levermore and his partner, briddayer Paul Atkinson, laid the foundations for success with a relaxed approach to their Regional Final at Enfield.

"We were laid back and never really thought we could win," said Stuart, "but after a bacon sandwich and a cup of coffee

Lombard Top Club Trophy

we were ready for action!"

The pair took it in turns to birdie the holes building up a nine under par score of 63 to win by two shots.

EASTERN REGIONAL FINAL

The last time Weston Park professional, Michael Few, played in Portugal it was in the Portuguese-Open whilst on the European Tour in the early 90's.

Report compiled by the PGA Press Office

REGIONAL FINAL UPDATE

Only five Regional Finals remain to be played: Puckup Hall (22 July), Exeter (24 July), Kedleston Park (28 July), Pannal (30 July) and Hestheth (1 August).



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Parnevik falters in final round to present victory to talented Texan

Leonard discovers land of Open glory

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

JUSTIN LEONARD became the Open champion of 1997 yesterday by playing one of the outstanding finishing rounds in recent history. Helped by remarkable putting and an ice-cool demeanour that was reminiscent of Ben Hogan, a fellow Texan, he grabbed victory from under the nose of Jesper Parnevik, on a sunlit afternoon at Royal Troon.

Leonard, from Dallas, made light of being five strokes behind Parnevik at the start of the day. With a run of five birdies in seven holes and six birdies in his outward half, he sped to the turn in 31, five under par. This was a stunning burst and with it he pulled back four strokes on the leader.

Then, over the most difficult inward half in Open golf, he held his nerve, sustained his challenge to his older rival and was rewarded for outstanding putting when he took the lead with two holes remaining.



Leonard holed good putts on the 15th, 16th and 17th holes and this was what won him the Open. Leonard, 25, had a round of 65, six under par, and finished 12 under par.

Darren Clarke, who had been joint leader after the first round, led outright after the second and had his lead taken away from him by Parnevik after the third, then came back with a display of courage. Although he drove out of bounds on the 2nd hole of the last round, he mounted a spirited finish. He birdied two of the last three to climb back to nine under par and share second place with Parnevik, three strokes behind.

With a round of 17 pars and one birdie, Jim Furyk hoisted himself to five under par and fourth place while a 67 by Padraig Harrington took him to four under par and fifth place. The expected challenge from Tiger Woods and Fred Couples did not materialise.

There can only be sympathy for Parnevik who has finished second in two of the past four Opens. When it appeared that he could win at Turnberry in 1994, he made a mistake at the end and Nick Price won. Now he has lost an Open that he should have won. Twice in his first 11 holes he recovered from dropping strokes by scoring birdies. When he rammed in a 25-foot putt for a three on the 11th to lead by two strokes, it looked as though he was sufficiently in control of himself and his golf to go on and win.

On the 18th, however, he missed a four-foot putt after his ball had rolled back off the green, and on the 16th, just after Leonard had taken the lead, he missed a five-footer. Leonard, meanwhile, had



Parnevik plays his approach to the 6th during his 73 at Royal Troon yesterday. Leonard began the day five behind him, but finished three ahead. Photograph: Marc Aspland

holed from 15 feet to birdie the 16th and go 11 under par, and then birdied the 17th as well.

His golf is a confection of brilliance and mistakes, but at present, though there are many moments of brilliance, there are still too many mistakes. He has yet to learn how and when to attack just as he appears not to understand that even the most fortified castle will sometimes yield to something other than a full-frontal attack.

Saturday. But there was to be no storybook triumph towards a first Open victory.

His golf is a confection of brilliance and mistakes, but at present, though there are many moments of brilliance, there are still too many mistakes. He has yet to learn how and when to attack just as he appears not to understand that even the most fortified castle will sometimes yield to something other than a full-frontal attack.

In a display of bad golf and occasional bursts of temper, Woods's chance of catching the leaders disappeared, like so many before him, on the 8th, where he failed to get out of a bunker and took a six.

For most of the day there was not the wind of the first round nor the sun of the second and third rounds and it did not take long for a marker to be laid down. Low scoring was going to be the order of the day on a course that has got progressively easier as it has dried out. Davis Love had a 67 as did Brad Faxon, Jose Maria Olazabal and Padraig Harrington.

Tom Lehman brought his defence to a creditable conclusion with a 66. "Things didn't quite go my way," Lehman said. "Today I managed to scramble around and get it all the way to the house with a decent score. The reception I got coming up the 18th was something special. I look forward to coming back and walking up that fairway with the lead."

The amphitheatre of the 18th green at an Open is very special — even for Jack Nicklaus who walked into it yesterday for the 36th successive Open. Almost as great was the acclaim that greeted Olazabal as he concluded perhaps his best round, in terms of play from tee to green, since his comeback. His

drives and irons were straight and far, and he thought that his 67 could, with better putting, have been three or four strokes fewer.

That Olazabal could play so well at the end of three successive tournaments was further good news for Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe Ryder Cup captain. Furthermore, Olazabal's feet continue to improve. "Every day it is easier for me to walk 18 holes," he said.

Then came Colin Montgomerie, whose ovation for a 70 matched, perhaps even exceeded, Nicklaus's and Olazabal's. The way Montgomerie left his first putt short could have summed up his week, except that it has been his driving not his putting that has been his undoing. While he scarcely dared use his driver most of the week, he saved himself again and again with his putter. "It must be the best feeling in the world,

walking up 18," Montgomerie said. "One year I hope to be playing late when the stands are full."

The stands of Montgomerie's home club were full just before six o'clock when Leonard walked on to the 18th green, about to become Open champion. The applause echoed all around, washing over the stone grey clubhouse. The reverberations were loud and long. They could probably be heard back in Dallas.

When they realised the game was up

Jesper Parnevik
(overnight leader)

Saturday night: "I have already finished second, so it doesn't matter to me to have another second. I'm going out to win."
Last night: "It was a struggle. I felt like I was walking uphill all day. I still felt I could win, even though I wasn't playing very well and I felt I was still in it until Justin birdied the 17th."

Darren Clarke
(two behind overnight)

Saturday night: "If I can get off to a good start and play the back nine better... I'm going to do my best to try to catch Jesper. If a chance does present itself for me to win, then hopefully I will take it."
Last night: "There is no doubt about where I lost it... at the second hole when I shanked a three-iron out of bounds off the tee. After that I was just struggling to keep the ball in play."

Fred Couples
(five behind overnight)

Saturday night: "Jesper is five shots ahead and Darren is playing well. I don't think I can win unless I shoot 64 or under. I'm looking forward to a good start tomorrow."
Last night: "I drove the first green but then I made a stupid bogey at two. Then I missed a fairly easy birdie putt on four and made bogey on five. I had a putt on eight that tipped out and a fairly short putt at nine and missed again for birdie at ten."

Jim Furyk
(seven behind overnight)

Saturday night: "Realistically there is still a chance but I shall not be going to bed dreaming about winning."
Last night: "I had 17 pars and one birdie and I felt I played better than I did during my first round of 67. I hit the ball better but I just didn't make any putts."

Tiger Woods
(eight behind overnight)

Saturday night: "I honestly think I can still win. I have to go out there and produce. A lot has to do with the wind. If it stays like this, then even if I shoot a really good number, more likely I probably won't win just because it's so easy out there."
Last night: "I missed two short putts at six and seven. If I had made those I might have got going and it might have been a different story. I never got any putts at all. I knew I couldn't win after my terrible bogey at the eighth. I was too far back."

Lee Westwood
(eight behind overnight)

Saturday night: "I've got myself into a good position. If Darren was to drop or three shots, seven shots is not out of my reach if it's windy."
Last night: "Taking six at every par five doesn't help. I could have shot 66 or 67 quite easily. If I'd been half decent out of bunkers I'd have done better. Taking six down the fourth was ridiculous."

PATRICIA DAVIES

ROYAL TROON SCORES FROM THOON

Great Britain and Ireland United States	272: J Leonard (US) 59, 66, 72, 65 (205,000)	287: A Mages (US) 70, 75, 72, 70; G Norman (Aus) 69, 73, 70, 75
273: D Clarke (US) 67, 71, 71, 71; J Parnevik (Swe) 70, 68, 68, 73 (210,000 each)	288: M O'Meara (US) 73, 73, 74, 68; J Kemmer (US) 75, 70, 74, 66; R Russell 72, 72, 74, 70; M Bradley (US) 72, 73, 75, 70; V Singh (US) 71, 69, 70, 72; B Langer (Ger) 72, 74, 69, 73	289: J Coore (Eng) 76, 70, 71, 72; J Kelly (US) 76, 68, 72, 75; D Topping (US) 71, 69, 74; C Strange (US) 71, 71, 70, 77
274: J Furyk (US) 67, 72, 70, 70	290: J Payne 74, 71, 74, 71; R Bonall 75, 72, 72; S Jones (US) 71, 68, 75	291: C O'Brien (US) 70, 68, 76, 68; P Hackett 76, 69, 71, 71; W Feller (Aus) 74, 71, 76, 71; M Fakir 71, 75, 75, 72; P Sorensen (Aus) 75, 70, 75, 72; G Turner (US) 76, 71, 72, 75; A Calero (Arg) 70, 76, 76, 75; J Maguire (US) 76, 68, 71, 75
275: P Hadenburg 75, 68, 67, 67; S Ames (Ire) 74, 68, 68, 71	292: J Payne 74, 71, 74, 71; R Bonall 75, 72, 72; S Jones (US) 71, 68, 75	293: P Stewart (US) 73, 74, 71, 74
276: P O'Malley (Aus) 73, 70, 70, 68; E Romero (Arg) 74, 68, 67, 72; P Couples (US) 69, 68, 70, 74	294: S Stroher (US) 72, 73, 74, 75; P Townsend (US) 72, 75, 72, 75; J Johnson (Swe) 72, 73, 73, 75	295: S Howard 70, 74, 75; J Nicklaus (US) 73, 74, 71, 75
277: D Love (US) 70, 71, 74, 67; R O'Connor (SA) 75, 68, 70, 68; P Nockle (NZ) 74, 72, 68, 68; T Kim (US) 72, 67, 74, 69; M Caldwell (US) 74, 67, 72, 68; S Montgomery (US) 74, 69, 70, 69; S Bly (US) 75, 68, 68, 68; T Watson (US) 71, 70, 71, 71; L Westwood 73, 70, 67, 72; R Albery (Aus) 76, 68, 68, 72	296: P McInerney 78, 71, 77, 71; P-JJ Spence 78, 69, 72, 75; T Furrer (US) 72, 71, 73, 78	297: S Stroher (US) 72, 73, 74, 75; P Townsend (US) 72, 75, 72, 75; J Johnson (Swe) 72, 73, 73, 75
278: J M O'Sullivan (US) 75, 68, 72, 67; G Faxon (US) 77, 67, 72, 67; M James 76, 67, 70, 70; S Appleby (Aus) 72, 72, 68, 71	298: P McInerney 78, 71, 77, 71; P-JJ Spence 78, 69, 72, 75; T Furrer (US) 72, 71, 73, 78	299: T Toles (US) 77, 68, 75, 76; G Cook 74, 72, 72, 78
279: T Lehman (US) 74, 72, 72, 68; D A Russell 75, 72, 68, 69; J Hoss (US) 71, 70, 73, 70; C Montgomerie 76, 69, 70; P Nicholson (US) 73, 68, 68, 71; I Wooten 71, 78, 68, 71; P Leont (Aus) 72, 70, 68, 75; T Woods (US) 72, 74, 64, 74	300: W Andrade (US) 72, 72, 78, 76	
280: M McNulty (Zim) 78, 67, 72, 68		
281: R Davis (Aus) 73, 73, 70, 70; D Duval (US) 73, 68, 78, 71; J Lomas 72, 71, 69, 74		

As rough guide to fashion, Parnevik is well under par

Well, it was a good result for clothes-lovers, that's all. For a long time yesterday afternoon, it seemed certain that Jesper Parnevik would win the Open Championship and couture snobs were, frankly, seared.

One of the nice things about golf is that the clothes, in

general, flatter the male form, and do not make their wearers look like a goofy mechanic in a cartoon. But when Parnevik practised on the putting-green at Royal Troon yesterday, a horrified whisper of "Purple trousers! Not!" went round the grandstand at the first tee.

People with binoculars dropped them. "What is he wearing?" we gasped. "Do

you think he bought it specially?" Clothes matter rather a lot in golf. It is a game that you have to dress carefully for, because of those damn rules. At golf clubs, women who innocently wear trousers in the clubhouse are escorted outside and placed in stocks until they recant. Visitors whose tailored shorts are of non-regulation length are shouted at through loud-hailers from observation towers. So it is odd how little is made of the wardrobe choices of professional players, when great care obviously goes into the selection.

A woman golf-club member pointed out to me on Friday that Tiger Woods's beautiful banded shirt (in shades of coffee and cream) was virtually a T-shirt, having no regulation collar — or only an "apology" for one. Well, what an outrage. "You're right, he should be disqualified on the spot," I agreed.

There were two big sartorial stories at Troon yesterday. First, Greg Norman sensibly dumped the nasty black cloth cap he's been wearing, which made him look like somebody's dad, and struck out in full storming Norman white-shark garb, to a general cheer of relief. Alas, the white hat did not rescue his game, but at least it gave him back some dignity. Meanwhile, teeing off in quick succession in white shirt, white shoes, white visor

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking & Screaming

and ink-blue trousers were Stephen Ames and Fred Couples — men of almost identical appearance in almost identical clothing. You can imagine them bumping into each other, pointing accusing fingers in mirror image and then each deciding just to tough it out.

reserving the best ones for himself. How else does one explain how Colin Montgomerie keeps getting the slushy end of the ice-cream in this arrangement? Handsome Nick pulls another bluey, checky number over his head, nods contentedly at himself in the mirror, looks again, pauses, goes for a little walk, thinks, crouches, looks at it sideways, and then cruelly assures the hapless Colin that, "Red is more your colour". What a cad.

While on the subject of Monty's wardrobe, incidentally, I think I have discovered the reason why he doesn't wear a hat, even on days of extreme sun and heat. It is because his clubs are made by Calloway and he would, therefore, wear across his forehead that unflattering inscription, "Great Big Bertha". Out in the Open Golf Show — a big tent full of golf merchandise — they have been selling a lot of gear this week. It transpires that the new kids on the block, Marks & Spencer (clothes modelled by Jonathan Lomas), do not shy from the obvious diamond motif and weatherproof tartan, but draw the line at bothering with shoes. Pringle is big. Belle Golf, which sells frilly socks and golfy trinkets to women of reprehensible taste, is ghastly. Cutter & Buck (American sporting wear) is supremely interesting, but only because its model is that

excellent, underrated Frenchman, David Ginola. "Why is that dishy footballer wearing your golf stuff?" I asked the salesman, right out. He assumes an enigmatic expression. "A great fan of the product, madam," he said.

At no stand in the Open Golf Show could you find Parnevik's outfit, or anything like it, because it doesn't conform with golf wear as we know it. No, the jeans style of golf trousers will remain specific to the luckless stringy Swede for a little while to come. How he plays in such restrictive, close-fitting garb is the mystery; at follow-through, elastic-waisted swingers, such as Woods and Couples, twist their torsos through something scarier close to 180 degrees, yet their shirts remain tucked in — a triumph of cutting-edge leisurewear technology.

Sometimes, when Woods follows through, one expects his upper half to keep on turning, until his chest has revolved through 360 degrees and is round the front again. But you still wouldn't expect his top to come loose.

At the same time, however, golf wear is supposed to imitate real clothes. Racing drivers are obliged to change for dinner; tennis players look silly off the court but, when golfers stroll into the clubhouse in those flannels, they just have to take their hats off to look normal. I genuinely

hoped to see Parnevik lift his hat in victory. He is a real individual, but I just hope he doesn't notice that, in this part of Robbie Burns country, there are road signs to "The Tam O'Shanter Experience". How easily a foreigner could get the wrong end of the stick. And a tam-o-shanter on Parnevik would be a hat too far.

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Norman's cap made him look like somebody's dad

When Troon was the BBC's missing links

We are used to insisting that we watch our sports broadcasts live. If that means getting up at unearthly times of night or not going to bed at all, so be it — that becomes part of the experience. However, as well as live, there is a growing demand these days to have our sport complete.

It is what made Sky's coverage of the last Ryder Cup so memorable (remember how they flew out an entire outside broadcast unit to cover the three-hour gap when the host American network covered a football game); it is what has made the BBC's much improved Test match coverage so exciting this summer; and it is turning Eurosport's coverage of the Tour de France into one of the most addictive events of the summer. From beginning to end, we increasingly want to

be there and increasingly broadcasters are happy to oblige.

Yet, at the Open from Royal Troon, it was the one thing that the BBC could not provide. On Thursday and Friday they more or less got away with it, opening up at 10.30am and, except for a half hour break for *Working Lunch* and *Neighbours*, continued right through to 7.30pm. Only the most tedious of pedants could complain that 8½ hours of coverage a day was not enough.

On Saturday, however, just about everybody had grounds for complaint. With BBC1 predictably dedicated to a morning of children's programming, BBC2 was unpredictably showing reruns of Phil Silvers and Tony Hancock. Meanwhile, Troon was basking in glorious sunshine



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

and some of the best golfers in the world were going about their business unseen. By the time that coverage got properly under way in *Grandstand*, it was after one o'clock and Tiger Woods, out in 32, was at the 11th. With three races from Newbury to fit in, Woods's remarkable back nine passed in a confusing blur of live and catch-up television. In the circumstances, it was perhaps not tactful of Steve Rider to bang on about that "remarkable round" for the rest of the afternoon.

Of course, the BBC recovered well and the battle between Clarke and Parnevik and between Clarke and the back nine provided a wonderful four hours of live sport and a perfect contrast to the inevitable high speed, blink-and-you-miss-it montage of the first couple of days.

Indeed, until it all got interesting again at the 6th yesterday, it looked as if we might have seen the best the tournament had to offer. Yet a bogey here, a birdie there and, as Peter Alliss said, "a lot more

drama still to come before we draw stumps".

John Shrewsbury, the executive producer, had rightly insisted, for the first time, on having a camera at all 18 holes for all four days. Together with Alastair Scott, the producer, he made excellent use of them, with only the highest of lofted drives and the prickliest of gorse-bush lies escaping their all-seeing lenses.

The commentary team, I thought, was just a pip or too below the high standard that it sets itself, with the matter-of-fact and well-researched Peter Oosterhuis, unexpectedly, emerging as the pick of them, and Alex Hay a close second. The Peters, Alliss and Thomson, had their comic moments, but are beginning to be so similar in laid-back style that you do wonder about the justification for having both of

them. An American voice, a position normally filled by either the splendid Dave Marr or, more controversially, by Mark McCormack, was also missed, particularly yesterday as Leonard mounted his late charge.

One of the attendant dangers of modern golf coverage is that, even for the most experienced of commentators, and certainly the viewer, it becomes a high-speed series of unrelated images — a drive, a chip for an eagle, a birdie putt. What is needed is someone to stand back and work out what the developing stories of the day are before the newspapers do the job for them the next day. Apart from anything else, it would give the rather under-used Rider something else to do apart from rattle through the scoreboard every 15 minutes.

Mackenzie performs winning double act

STALL MACKENZIE, the defending champion, took two strides towards retaining his British superbike title, by winning the eleventh and twelfth rounds at Oulton Park yesterday. Mackenzie, from Dunblane, overcame a fierce challenge from John Reynolds, from Nottingham, in the two 15-lap races.

In the first race, he nosed his Yamaha clear at halfway and then, after Reynolds had surged past him on the penultimate lap on his Ducati, won a last-lap confrontation to win by 0.1sec. Three riders led in as many laps at the start of the second race before Mackenzie eased clear to win by 0.3sec. "I'm happy enough with that," he said after his seventh victory of the season and third double. Mackenzie leads Chris Walker, his team-mate, 243-190 in the title chase, with Reynolds third on 165 points.

Jurgensen jumps ahead

GOLF: Steve Jurgensen had a round of 69, three under par, to establish a two-shot lead after the third round of the Deposit Guaranty Classic at Madison, Mississippi. Seeking his first US PGA Tour win, Jurgensen, 26, had a birdie at the last hole to double his lead. His worst round of the tournament was still good enough to move him to 202, 14 under par, two strokes in front of the American quartet of Brian Claar, Billy Ray Brown, Steve Lowery and Don Pooley, who had been the joint-leader after two rounds. Pooley had a third round of 71. Six other players were a shot further back.

Komen sets best time

ATHLETICS: Daniel Komen, right, of Kenya, set a world best of 7min 58.61sec for two miles at a meeting in Hechtel, Belgium, on Saturday. Komen, who holds the world record for 3,000 metres, said afterwards that he hopes to run 12min 35sec in the 5,000 metres at the world championships in Athens next month, almost ten seconds inside the existing record.



Guinness sponsorship

RUGBY UNION: Guinness Brewing Worldwide has become the first global sponsor of the 1999 World Cup, and will also be the competition's official beer supplier. A statement yesterday said that the company will be investing about £10 million in the sponsorship and marketing of the event. Guinness also sponsors the Ireland national squad and the Irish inter-provincial championship.

Irwin chasing fifth title

GOLF: Hale Irwin had a round of 68 — four under par — to take the lead after the second round of the Burnet Senior Classic at Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Irwin, who has won four events on the US Seniors Tour this year and leads the money-list, led by one shot from Lee Trevino, who had a 68. John Bland, of South Africa, and Bob Murphy were a stroke further back.

Liles clings on to title

BOXING: Frankie Liles, of the United States, retained his World Boxing Association super-middleweight title after struggling to a unanimous decision over Zaffarou Ballogou, of Togo, in Nashville. Liles, making a sixth defence of the title, was knocked down in the ninth round. He may now face Steve Collins, of Ireland, the World Boxing Organisation champion, in a unification bout.

Jackson runs into form

ATHLETICS: Colin Jackson, right, recorded his best time of the season in the 110 metres hurdles at a meeting in Ingolstadt, Germany, yesterday. Jackson, the world record-holder, from Cardiff, won the race in 13.24sec. Florian Schwarthoff, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, of Germany, was expected to challenge Jackson, but withdrew because of an injury.



Morley leads rout

LACROSSE: Steve Morley, the captain, produced an inspirational performance as England began the defence of their European title in Stockholm yesterday. Morley scored five goals in an 18-2 victory over Germany. England led 8-0 at half-time and turned up the heat in the second half. Will Steffen, the goalkeeper, and Anthony Murphy, the midfield player, both 17, made their international debuts.

Surrey hold off Norfolk

RIFLE SHOOTING: Surrey won the King George V Trophy in the English county rifle championship at Biskley over the weekend. They scored 1,187 out of a possible 1,200, beating Norfolk into second place by six points. Norfolk, whose team now includes Antony Ringer, the world champion, and Nigel Ball, the former Royal Navy champion, are showing signs of becoming a threat to Surrey.

RUGBY LEAGUE: SUPER LEAGUE LEADERS SUFFER NEW HUMILIATION IN WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Bradford submit to awesome Auckland

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WHEN Bradford Bulls succumbed to three home defeats in the Super League Visa world club championship, there were, at least, some redeeming factors. There were none whatsoever, however, in their abject 64-14 defeat by Auckland Warriors at the Ericson Stadium yesterday.

Bearing in mind that Auckland, the bottom club in the Australasian Super League, had squeezed past Bradford by four points at Odsal, it was no surprise to see them overturn Bradford for a second time in a month. However, not even the most gloomy pessimist would have forecast a margin of 50 points in the rematch in New Zealand.

Although Bradford have posted 17 successive victories

even split of European and Australasian quarter-finalists — Auckland could miss out, even if they remain unbeaten, because of points difference, which would be a shame.

As flimsily as Bradford defended, Auckland were as daring and lethal as anything that the British sides have had to contend with in the competition. Their third try, when the score was 16-8 and could still loosely be described as a contest, killed off Bradford on the half-hour, as Hoppe starting and finishing a 90-metre flourish that featured some magnificent support play.

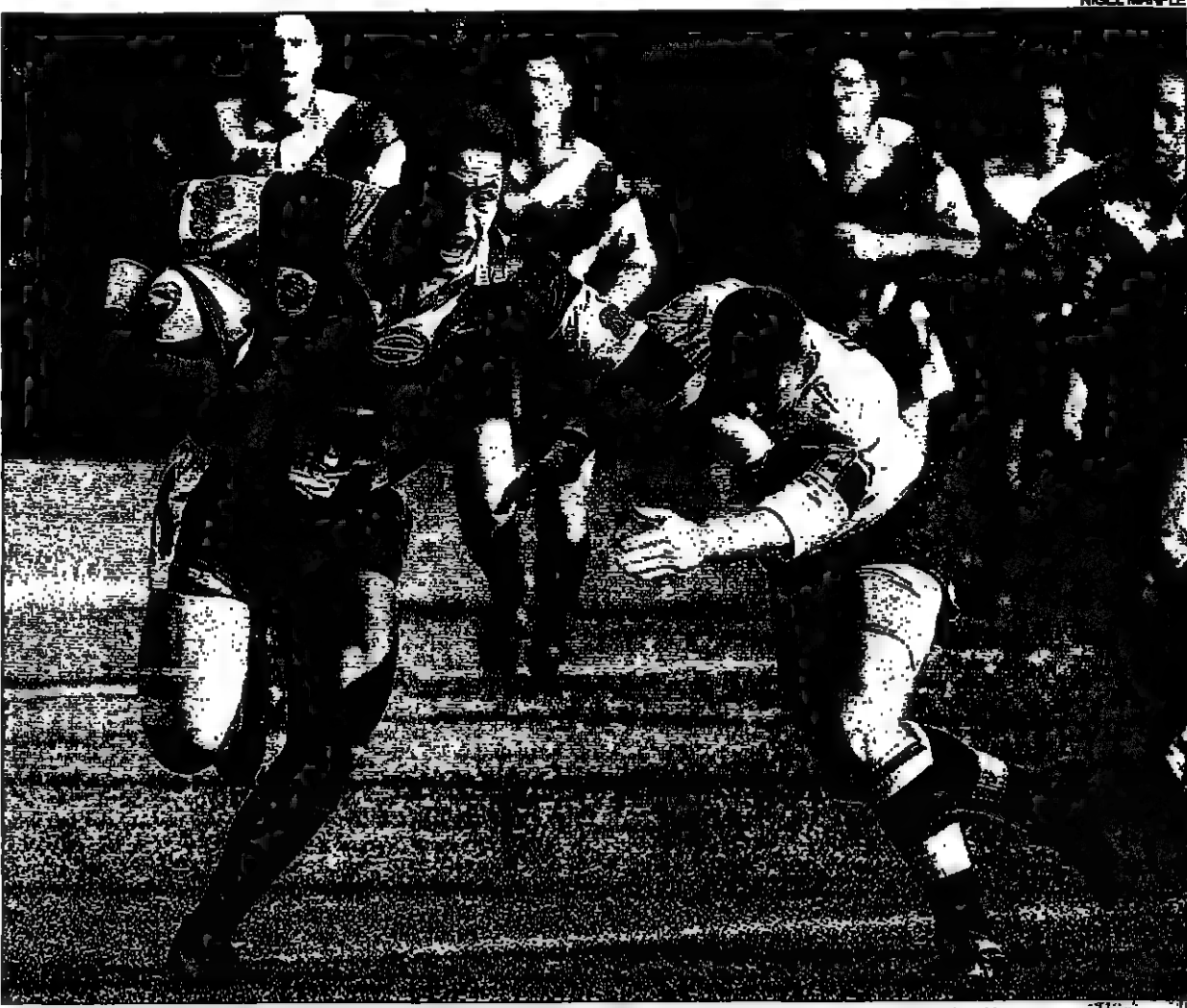
The early loss of McNamara, and later that of Bradley, the one player obdurate enough not to give in, did Bradford's cause no good. Bradley and Lowe were unstoppable from close range in the opening quarter, but Auckland scored another 44 points before McDermott levered himself across the line for a consolation try at the end.

Unbelievably, Auckland had fretted beforehand about the unavailability of Ridge, the team's inspirational captain and goal-kicker. In the event, he was not missed. After Oudenryn claimed the opening try in the second minute, Ngamu landed the conversion from the touchline and succeeded with a further 11 goals from 12 attempts, most from in front of the Bradford posts.

Ropati scored four tries in Auckland's previous biggest victory, at Warrington last month, and this time managed three in the second half. Hoppe got his second as Bradford shipped 16 points in the ten minutes that Torrington was in the sin-bin for a professional foul. Ngamu's try wrapped up a club individual record of 28 points and Eru. Betts and Ellis added their names to the scoresheet.

After each of their defeats in the first phase, the Bradford coaching staff were quick to defend their players and draw something positive from the performance. This time, there was no hiding place and their sorry display was perhaps best summed up by Frank Endacott, the Auckland coach. "I don't know what was wrong with them today," he said. "They're not that bad."

The world championship has been Bradford's *bête noire* and Auckland's saving grace during their disappointing domestic campaign. In the inauspicious qualification system — a contrivance to guarantee an



Vagana brushes aside a Bradford tackle as Auckland go on the attack during their impressive win yesterday

Halifax find some late cheer

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HALIFAX failed to improve on their woeful record in that world club championship, but still salvaged some pride with a spirited late show in their 40-32 defeat by Canterbury Bulldogs at Thrum Hall yesterday. The final word went to Hazen El Masre, the Canterbury wing, whose wonderful solo try in the eighteenth minute completed a hat-trick.

When El Masre scored his second try of the match, converted by Daryl Halligan to put Canterbury 34-10 ahead, another rout looked on the cards, but two tries in the final 11 minutes from Dalo Powell and Paul Highton brought a measure of respectability to the final score.

Halifax began the home phase of the tournament with by far the worst record of any European club. Three defeats in Australia saw them concede a total of 204 points.

Their lack of confidence was quickly exposed by Canterbury, who enjoyed a 58-6 win when the teams first met. Steve Reardon was first on the scoresheet after five minutes and Halligan converted, as he did three minutes later when Travis Norton eased his way through the Halifax defence.

Harrigan crossed for Canterbury's third try before Simon Baldwin, the Halifax

loose forward, replied. A further Harrigan penalty and El Masre's first try gave Canterbury a 22-6 half-time lead.

The gap was widened when Robert Mears, the hooker, bundled over early in the second half and Halifax were chasing a forlorn task when El Masre picked up a loose ball and sprinted half the length of the field after 58 minutes. Powell and Highton gave the crowd something to cheer before El Masre ensured that

it was Canterbury who finished on a high.

Sheffield Eagles failed to repeat their narrow defeat of Perth Reds last month when the teams met in the reverse fixture at the WACA on Saturday. They went down 48-12 — Perth's biggest win in their short history and welcome encouragement after their two defeats in Europe last month.

The damage to Sheffield had been done long before the scruffles at the end that resulted in Darren Turner and

Keith Senior being sent to the sin-bin with Brett Green, the Perth prop forward.

Wayne Evans scored the first of Perth's nine tries after two minutes and the second, by Higgins, brought a swift response as Whetu Taswa scored from Sheffield's first attack. Mark Aston converted, but Perth hit back immediately when Chris Ryan scored a try on the last tackle and Perth stretched their lead to 24-6 at the break when Matt Rodwell went over.

Perth sustained their momentum and, after three minutes of the second half, Mark Geyer raced 30 metres from a scrum to touch down. Sheffield's situation worsened as Waiale Soravaiua failed to collect an easy pass near his line and Shaun Devine snapped up a further score.

Lynton Stott replied with a try in the 53rd minute, again converted by Aston, but Perth then scored the best of their tries, as the ball went through seven pairs of hands to furnish Fred Saputu with a touch-down. Evans and William Wilshire completed the rout in the 72nd and 78th minutes.

In the Australian Rugby League competition, Farramata extended their winning run to ten matches with a 28-22 defeat of Newcastle Knights that keeps them in second behind Manly-Warringah. The top two meet on Friday.

Castleford manage to keep their pride intact

BY FAR the best performances by European sides in the world club championship have come in pool B, where only Castleford — who were far from disgraced in a 26-8 defeat away to Hunter Mariners yesterday — and Salford have failed to beat Australian opposition.

Castleford, despite trailing 18-4 at half-time, refused to be intimidated and Jason Critchley claimed an excellent try to add to one scored by Chris Smith in the first half.

Hunter, the only unbeaten Australian pool B team, are now favourites to claim the fourth quarter-final qualification place. John Carlaw and

Keith Beauchamp scored two tries while the Iro brothers, Kevin and Tony, added their names to the scoresheet.

After the 42-14 defeat by Hunter at Wheldon Road, Mike Ford, the Castleford captain, was pleased with his team's improvement. "Playing at this level can only make us better," he said.

London Broncos embark on their exciting home programme at the Sloop Memorial Ground tonight against Canberra Raiders, who beat them 66-20 in the reverse fixture, while St Helens travel to Cronulla, who defeated them 48-8 in the first group phase.

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Ullrich emerges from eastern shadows to start new era



Ullrich, as calm as ever, waits to start yesterday's stage

Barring accidents or the most remarkable collapse in form seen in the modern history of the Tour de France, Jan Ullrich will be consecrated in Paris next Sunday as professional cycling's new patron. He may be just a freckle-faced 23-year-old, younger than Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault or Miguel Indurain when they took the first of their five wins, but he has emerged as the most dominant Tour leader for over a decade.

Even the metronomic and unflappable Indurain failed to master his rivals as coolly as Ullrich has done this year, countering every attack on his superiority with ease, yet while his athletic prowess has been startlingly obvious since he took control of the race and took charge of his yellow jersey in the Pyrenees last week, he remains something of a mystery. German correspondents covering the event have been joking that "talking to the press makes him sweat more than wearing the yellow jersey".

Jeremy Whittle charts the rise of the young German cyclist who has taken the Tour de France by storm

It was Peter Becker, the well-known coach to many in the Eastern Bloc, who laid the foundations of Ullrich's present success. Becker spotted Ullrich when he was a red-headed 12-year-old with the Children and Youth Sports School in East Berlin at a cyclo-cross event in 1986. Even though the youngster struggled around the muddy course on a standard road bike, Becker was impressed by his attitude and, with his mother's blessing, Ullrich left home to live and train under Becker's wing in Hamburg.

Meanwhile, Greg Lemond, of the United States, was revolutionising professional cycling by becoming the first English-speaker to win the Tour de France. Ullrich, able to snatch occasional glimpses of the Tour from Western television pictures, was fascinated. "I saw Lemond and Laurent Fignon fighting over the yellow jersey in 1989 and I dreamed of doing it too," he recalls. "Riding the Tour became my dream."

By 1993 and with the Berlin Wall long gone, eastern Europe's top cyclists had signed for professional teams in Italy, Belgium and Spain. They were cheaper, in salary terms, than their Western counterparts, more durable and only too pleased to move out of the shadows, learn a new language and take up residence in Milan, Brussels or Madrid.

Becker, however, wanted Ullrich to take things slowly. At just 19, he rode for the German team in the 1993 amateur world championships and surprised the rest of the field by taking the gold medal, yet even after finishing third, still as an amateur, to Chris Boardman — by then an established professional — in the 1994 world time trial championships in Sicily, he resisted overtures from the big teams. Only when an offer came from the German Telekom team, then an unspectacular outfit led by the ageing former Peace Race winner, Olaf Ludwig, Ullrich finally opted to turn professional.

Ullrich consolidates lead in Tour de France after holding off mountain challenge

Boardman unable to beat the pain barrier

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN COURCHEVEL

CHRIS BOARDMAN finally succumbed to the pain from his injured back on Saturday as the Tour de France headed into the Alps, and abandoned the race before admitting "maybe I'm not a man of the Tour after all".

While the British rider prepared to fly home for further treatment to his injury, any remaining French resistance to the unstoppable Jan Ullrich crumbled in the heart of the Savoie region yesterday. Ullrich, from Germany, mastered a valiant last-ditch effort by Richard Virenque, of France, but then permitted Virenque to cross the line in front of him for his first stage win of the race at the ski resort of Courchevel.

Boardman's Tour de France came to a painful but inevitable conclusion after 54 kilometres of the thirteenth stage to the summit of Alpe d'Huez, when, after struggling over the climb of the Col de la République, he opted to abandon the three-week race.

"I really didn't want to stop, but I just couldn't cope with the pain any more," he said. "My back was much worse than on previous days and it had started to affect my bike handling. I was nervous of crashing again, so it would have been stupid to continue."

"I knew on the first climb that it was too much and that stopping was the logical thing to do, but I tried to think of ways around it."

The worst thing was that I came up Alpe d'Huez slowly behind the race in the team car in front of all the British fans. That was the most painful part of a very emotional day. After a week recovering from the muscle tears across his shoulders, Boardman will try to pick up the threads of the season which was based almost wholly on a strong showing in the Tour.



Riis, left, helps Ullrich, his team-mate and Tour de France leader, to recover ground after a break by Virenque in the Alps yesterday. Photograph: Jean-Paul Pellissier

On Saturday Marco Pantani, of Italy, the winner at Alpe d'Huez in 1995, climbed to another typically flamboyant victory to prove that he had fully recovered from his career-threatening crash in the autumn of 1995.

Pantani set a fierce pace that only Bjarne Riis, of Denmark, Ullrich and Virenque could follow, but his next acceleration was too much even for Ullrich, 23, and Pantani, who finished third in the Tour in 1994, climbed through the huge boisterous crowds to an exhilarating victory.

"This is a very satisfying win after all I've been through," Pantani said. "It feels better than when I won in 1995. I gave 100 per cent today — I just hope I don't pay for my efforts in the mountain stages still to come."

Ullrich, who on Saturday appeared to suffer in the mountains for the first time, recovered well yesterday to nullify Virenque's attempt to break his grip on the race. Virenque led over the spectacular passes of the Col de Glandon and Col de la Madeleine and, with Ullrich lacking confidence on the fast, narrow descents, Virenque looked likely to make substantial inroads into the lead.

Yet, as Virenque scented glory, Ullrich was joined by his team-mates and, with help from Riis, his team captain and mentor, he reeled in Virenque on the Valley Road to the final climb.

Although Virenque attacked repeatedly on the 21-kilometre ascent to Courchevel, Ullrich countered every move, climbing coolly alongside before tactfully letting Virenque slip clear inside the final 50 metres for a deserved stage win.

Yates frustrated by Dawson's stamina

By PETER BRYAN

SEAN YATES, semi-retired and now relieved from the pressures of the Tour de France, in which he competed for 12 years, won his third British championship medal of the season yesterday. However, it was not the one that he sought.

Earlier this year he took bronze in the 100-kilometre team time-trial after his gold in the 50-mile event. A second gold looked on the cards in the 100-mile championship, based near Didcot, yesterday. At the halfway check he had established a lead of 31 seconds over Kevin Dawson, a former British best-around champion, but after 75 miles Yates was 22 seconds adrift.

Dawson kept up the pressure in the closing miles to win with a championship record of 3hr 29min 03sec, as Yates, who had ridden in only one 100-mile trial, paid the price for going too fast early on. Yates had to settle for second place, 1min 40sec behind.

"It all came right on the day," Dawson, who rides for GS Strada, said. "Now I want to improve my 50-mile time and do a good 12-hour mileage to put me in the running for the all-rounder title again."

Yates made it clear that he would not be a candidate for the 12-hour event, but he is still in search of records and is planning, with Vic Haynes, his Team Clean sponsor, as partner, an attack on the British 50-miles tandem record that has stood since 1978 at 1hr 40min 05sec.

Jill Reames regained the women's 100-mile title with a winning time of 4hr 03min 32sec.

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

THIRTEENTH STAGE (St Etienne to Alpe d'Huez, 203.5 kilometres): 1. M Pantani (I, Merckx) at 4:26; 2. J Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) at 4:26; 3. R Virenque (Fr, Festina) at 4:27; 4. F Casagrande (I, Saeco) at 4:27; 5. B Riis (Den, Telekom) at 4:28; 6. B Zang (Ger, Merckx) at 4:29; 7. J Balle (Ger, Telekom) at 4:29; 8. R Conti (I, Merckx) at 4:30; 9. L Mezard (Fr, Loto) at 4:30; 10. L Janssens (Fr, ONCE) at 4:32; 11. M Frassinetti (I, Rabbini) at 4:32; 12. A Chano (Sp, Banesto) at 4:33; 13. D Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto) at 4:33; 14. M Balzano (Sp, Banesto) at 4:34; 15. F Escarot (Sp, Kalm) at 4:34; 16. D Rostollin (I, La Française des Jeux) at 4:35; 17. P Jorjic (Aus, Rabobank) at 4:35; 18. J C Robin (Fr, US Postal Service) at 4:35; 19. J M Jimenez (Sp, Banesto) at 4:35; 20. P Lutsenberger (Austria, Rabobank) at 4:35; 21. M Scuderi (GB, La Française des Jeux) at 4:35; 22. Wiedmann (C, Boardman KIS, OAK) at 4:35.

FOURTEENTH STAGE (Le Bourg d'Oisans to Courchevel, 148.1 kilometres): 1. Virenque (Fr, Festina) at 3:05; 2. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) at 3:05; 3. Escarot (I, Saeco) at 3:05; 4. L Dufour (GB, Festina) at 3:05; 5. Riis (Den, Telekom) at 3:05; 6. Casagrande (I, Saeco) at 3:05; 7. Zang (Ger, Merckx) at 3:05; 8. Conti (I, Merckx) at 3:05; 9. Mezard (Fr, Loto) at 3:05; 10. Janssens (Fr, ONCE) at 3:05; 11. Frassinetti (I, Rabbini) at 3:05; 12. Chano (Sp, Banesto) at 3:05; 13. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto) at 3:05; 14. Balzano (Sp, Banesto) at 3:05; 15. Escarot (Sp, Kalm) at 3:05; 16. Rostollin (I, La Française des Jeux) at 3:05; 17. Jorjic (Aus, Rabobank) at 3:05; 18. Robin (Fr, US Postal Service) at 3:05; 19. Jimenez (Sp, Banesto) at 3:05; 20. Lutsenberger (Austria, Rabobank) at 3:05; 21. Scuderi (GB, La Française des Jeux) at 3:05; 22. Wiedmann (C, Boardman KIS, OAK) at 3:05.

LEADING OVERALL POSITIONS: 1. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) at 25:22; 2. Virenque (Fr, Festina) at 25:22; 3. Riis (Den, Telekom) at 25:22; 4. Casagrande (I, Saeco) at 25:22; 5. Zang (Ger, Merckx) at 25:22; 6. Conti (I, Merckx) at 25:22; 7. Mezard (Fr, Loto) at 25:22; 8. Janssens (Fr, ONCE) at 25:22; 9. Frassinetti (I, Rabbini) at 25:22; 10. Chano (Sp, Banesto) at 25:22; 11. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto) at 25:22; 12. Balzano (Sp, Banesto) at 25:22; 13. Escarot (Sp, Kalm) at 25:22; 14. Rostollin (I, La Française des Jeux) at 25:22; 15. Jorjic (Aus, Rabobank) at 25:22; 16. Robin (Fr, US Postal Service) at 25:22; 17. Jimenez (Sp, Banesto) at 25:22; 18. Lutsenberger (Austria, Rabobank) at 25:22; 19. Scuderi (GB, La Française des Jeux) at 25:22; 20. Wiedmann (C, Boardman KIS, OAK) at 25:22.

BOWLS

Gowshall's unbeaten run comes to an end

By DAVID RHYNS JONES

THE "old man's marbles" image may be way off the mark in the modern game of bowls, where the top men all seem to be in their 20s or 30s, but the women's game, perhaps because of its staid and strict dress code, remains more popular with the older generation.

Even here, however, the old order is changing, as 64 exuberant young women showed at Fort Rush yesterday, dressed flamboyantly in coloured shirts, and generally hatless, on the opening day of the British Isles under-25 team championship.

Scotland, clad appropriately perhaps, in purple, looked the best of the bunch, playing aggressive bowls to disarm first England, the defending champions, and then Ireland, who failed to exploit their home advantage.

Amy Gowshall, 18, from Grimsby, who had won all her nine matches at international level, tasted defeat for the first time, against Anne Brown, of Scotland, who plays the sort of game that took the Scotland men's team to the senior British title at Worthing earlier this month.

England look to Gowshall for inspiration and for once she failed to deliver, though she bounced back after lunch to skip her rink to an excellent 32-6 win over a Wales quartet skipped by Annwen Burton.

Remarkably, all four Wales skips — Butten, Sam Smith, Sarah Harris and Helen Rhian Jones — are playing in their tenth consecutive series, and, after dismissing Ireland so easily, 104-44, they were bitterly disappointed to be taken apart by England.

Realistically, they can now hope only to upset Scotland's progress when they meet them today, while England's chances depend not only on a big victory over Ireland, but also on a decisive Wales win over Scotland.

Brown finished with an aggregate advantage of 22 shots, while Kirsteen Reilly, her team-mate, did even better, and is on plus 25. Alan Rough and Roy Henry, the local pair, halted the Channel Island duo of Peter Le Long and David Le Marquand in Aberdeen on Saturday. Henry ended a revival from 7-1 down to 9-9 by overturning a potential count of three to open up a 12-9 lead that stretched to a 16-9 victory in the Grampian Television international pairs tournament.

Alan Lee on proposals that would dramatically reform county cricket

MacLaurin puts the case for change

A man could not run a company so vast and diverse as Tesco without possessing the initiative of an entrepreneur, the vision to anticipate trends and the personality to cope with complaints. These are the assets that the retired supermarket chairman has now transferred to what were once the ivory towers of Lord's, and to the monumental project that is consuming him.

This week, the blueprint report eagerly, if fearfully, awaited by everyone in cricket emerges, so to speak, from the boss's briefcase. The strategic plan for the domestic game, from 1998 onwards, compiled after the most exhaustive research that cricket has known, will be individually aired to the members of the most influential committee in the game on a for-your-eyes-only basis.

Until now, its contents have been a successfully guarded secret, the exclusive province of the chairman and chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board. The rest of us have waited in vain for hints on how the game is to change, if indeed it is to change at all.

This last concern need no longer apply, at least so far as the authors of the report are concerned. Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the board, who will forever be identified with the document, makes no secret of that. "We are recommending change," he said firmly. "It would be a dereliction of duty if we just left things as they are, because it hasn't worked."

He does not, naturally, specify the bold print of the report, but he does make the thrust of it clear. "We are not coming up with things absolutely outlandish and, for some, we may not be radical enough," he said, "but we are saying that a lot must alter — despite all the old cricketers who tell me that we have won a game or two against Australia, so we should leave things alone."

"It is not the same game as it was ten or 20 years ago. We have addressed the plain facts that we must have less cricket, better cricket, more quality practice time, smaller county staffs and a more seamless progression between the recreational and professional games."

At first-class level, this may not mean an immediate switch to promotion and relegation, but it will bring a transformed county championship and, I believe, a reduction from three to two one-day competitions, both played over the internationally accepted 50-overs-per-side span. It will be a programme designed to intensify competition and maximise public appeal. "The game must become more competitive and attractive, or the competition will swamp us," MacLaurin said.

Over the coming days he will be transmitting this message to his 15-strong management board. Then, on August 5, identical presentations of the plan will be made to the county delegates and the media. Six weeks later, on September 15, the proposals will be voted upon, with a simple majority required for their immediate adoption.

MacLaurin will hold his breath. He will be a little like a theatrical director on first night, awaiting the reviews with trepidation. He knows that there will be malcontents and could probably name them now, for it is impossible to satisfy everyone.



MacLaurin's vision for the future of the game will be presented to the counties early next month. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

What if his findings are rejected, if the counties — who still retain power over their own destiny — vote depressingly for the status quo? "Then I fear for the future of the game," he said candidly, and, though he stops short of issuing threats, he would also consider his own position and whether there was any point in him remaining. The game, by rejecting his work, would also have rejected him.

Lord MacLaurin and the Hon Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the board, may not sound like men who are about to rip apart the lazy, crazy way that English cricket is conducted. They sound, superficially, like the sort of men who have run the game by birthright and resisted change through the flawed instinct to preserve and protect.

This would be an entirely false impression of two compatible characters who have already achieved what many thought impossible, opening up the arcane corridors of the board to critical inspection and overhaul. They have done this intrepidly, assigning to Lowe Bell, an outside agency, the task of identifying the faults of their own operation.

"I have been involved in many difficult and protracted business ventures," MacLaurin said, "but I can honestly say this is the most

complex thing I have ever undertaken, because, despite all the work and the conclusions, it is ultimately not my decision. At Tesco, I would put things in place, knowing that, if they didn't work, I would be sacked. Things work differently here."

Since taking the chair last October, MacLaurin has been shocked by some of the shortcomings that he has encountered, both at the centre of cricket administration and around the 18 counties. "In my time as chairman," he said, "I intend to give

Tim a management operation that can carry this game forward into the new century."

Strident, stylish words. They might have come from a politician, and MacLaurin could make rather a good one. Perhaps he labours the odd soundbite, such as wanting players "to die this is to underestimate a man who has brought new qualities of urbanity and communication to a level of cricket administration where the instinctive response to queries and problems is "can't", "won't" or the popularly craven "not allowed to".

MacLaurin cuts through such attitudes. Aged 60, with a son who tried county cricket and became disillusioned by its narrowness, he has worn an unusual uniform of sporting passion and business acumen as he

has toured the country with Lamb, speaking in the key figures at all 18 counties.

To his horror, he has found chief executives who say that they never go into the dressing-room, chairmen belittling their own coaches and talented players whose idea of a profitable off-season is to collect the dole and paint sightcreens. "It is scandalous that some of these practices continue," MacLaurin said. Each of them will be addressed by certain aspects of his blueprint.

MacLaurin believes that no more than a handful of county clubs are run in the way that a self-respecting business would find acceptable. He has found, as others have suspected, that many are willing to take the cosy cushion of almost £1 million each year from centrally generated revenue — in other words, the England team — and then pay lip service to the game beyond their county boundaries.

At a lower level, he has found a Minor Counties system poorly constructed and providing no useful bridge to the first-class game and a club structure crying out for the elitism of a national premier league. "I still think it realistic that a stockbroker who is a gifted cricketer should play at a sufficiently competitive recreational level that he can

make the step to the county game," MacLaurin said.

Visits to the counties provided only the start of the foot-high files on MacLaurin's desk. The professional players were polled, as was a sample of the 142,000 county members and another sample of the peripheral audience. "We can't ignore those who are not members but still like to come to cricket occasionally or just watch on TV — there are ten million of them," he said.

There have also been hundreds of unsolicited letters and dozens of interviews with those on the fringes of the game. "I don't believe we could have done more," MacLaurin said. "It has been an amazing process and it has opened my eyes to a great deal."

Both men live with the fear that their work will be in vain. Lamb, who has the 1998 fixture list on hold, said: "I will be very disappointed if it is only a narrow majority. If the worst happens and it is defeated, we would have no option but to leave things as they are, which is absurd as every single county agreed there should be change." MacLaurin goes further. "If they kick it out completely, I will be extremely sad," he said. "The consequences for cricket will be very serious. You cannot continue to settle for mediocrity."

'It would be a dereliction of duty if we left things as they are'

'If the counties kick it out, the consequences will be very serious'

Proud Gooch retires from the line of fire

Alan Lee pays tribute to a cricketer whose achievement is one of enduring excellence

True to the promise that he made to himself more years ago than he cares to remember, Graham Gooch is to retire from cricket immediately, for the simple reason that he can no longer maintain his own lofty standards.

On Wednesday, his 44th birthday, he will begin his final match. Fittingly, it will be on the Chelmsford ground that he has adorned for a quarter of a century and, by the time it ends, there may be scarcely a dry eye in the house.

Gooch has been fretting throughout the season. Unable to impose himself on county games as he has done for so long, he continually found himself dismissed for teens and twenties. For the most self-critical batsman I have known, this would not do.

He decided that the time had come during the championship match at Northampton that ended on Saturday. Gooch made 24 and 16, precisely the type of scores that have been frustrating him. His pride could not take it any longer and the most distinguished English batsman of his generation announced that he would not be seeing out the season.

"I am feeling pretty sad," he said yesterday, "but I owe it to myself and the high standards I've set. It's been coming for a few weeks, because I've been struggling. I could carry on until the end of the season, but that wouldn't be right."

Gooch made a "pair" on his Test match debut in 1975, but came back to play 118 times for his country. For 34 of them, he was captain, a job that he resigned from four years ago after the Ashes were conceded once more at Headingley, where England and Australia meet this week.



Gooch: high standards

He reached his peak as an international player later than most and almost entirely because of the demanding programme of practice and training that he put himself through. A compulsion for net practice has never deserted him and it is a safe bet that, retirement or not, he will be first into the Chelmsford nets soon after breakfast on Wednesday.

Occasionally subject to bouts of poor form, and handog self-analysis, because of a recurring technical flaw, Gooch has nonetheless been the most consistently heavy scorer in the English game for two decades. His career total of almost 45,000 runs, at an average slightly below 50, is testimony to his enduring excellence.

A naturally heavy man, he has achieved wonders to remain physically fit into his forties. He took up road running some years ago and, typically, it became an obsession, though other forms of workout were equally punishing.

Although immensely patriotic, he did not need Test cricket for stimulus as many great players have done. After retiring from the international game early in 1995, he happily devoted himself to Essex, the county that he loves. "I'm proud I have always played for Essex with the same vigour I gave to England," he said.

Throughout his career, in all weathers, Gooch was loyally watched from the stands by his mother and father, Rose and Alf. The death of Alf, last December, left Gooch distraught and prompted him to withdraw from coaching the England A tour of Australia.

This winter, however, he will have his chance. Gooch and Mike Gatting, whose retirement may not be so far distant, will share the management duties with England A in Kenya and Sri Lanka. Gooch will be the one with the briefcase.

He is in his second year as an England selector and commands the respect and admiration of every player with whom he has come into contact. Reports that he was about to be installed as a permanent assistant to David Lloyd, the England coach, were dismissed as premature yesterday, but a job — and a good one — will be found for him within the game that continues to dominate his life.

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CRICKET

Brown roars into record books with rapid 203

By SIMON WILDE

SUNDAY BEST

GUILDFORD (Hampshire won toss; Surrey (4pts) beat Hampshire by 68 runs

SURREY decided to leave Johnny Gould and Rory the Linn behind when they departed from the Oval for Guildford Week. There was not room for a lion to roam the Woodbridge Road ground and hyperbolic commentary was considered unsuitable for the shires. It was an appropriate decision. For once, deeds spoke for themselves in what is often the Disneyworld of the Axa Life League.

Yesterday, the role of the big cat was taken by Alistair Brown, who tore Hampshire limb from limb in roaring his way to the first double-century made in a limited-overs match between first-class counties, and the highest score in the 28-year history of the league.

His 203 from 119 balls was only three short of the record for a one-day competition in this country, set by Alvin Kallicharran in 1984 but that innings, like Vince Wells's 201 in 1946, was taken off minor county opposition.

The previous league record was held by Graham Gooch, who scored 176 for Essex in 1983 and, hours earlier, had announced his retirement. It was one way for Brown to catch the eye of a man who will soon be concentrating on his England selectorial duties.

Brown has made his reputation as a calculated hitter and struck 157 off 117 balls at Grace Road in this competition in May. He has felt for some time that 200 was a possible score in the league and may have suspected that this was his best chance. Hampshire are a struggling side, the pitch was perfect, the outfield fast and one square boundary laughably short.

He flicked the majority of his 11 sixes in that direction with the aplomb of a man knocking heads off daisies with his walking-stick; many of his 19 fours also came there. There were times when the two fielders Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, placed there had only yards to move but were unable to get there in time.

Poor Stephenson. For reasons that one hopes will now be forgotten, he chose to field first. Within minutes, he must have regretted it. Brown played himself in by taking 25

off the first four overs from Connor and Renshaw before opening his shoulders in Connor's third over. He took 20 off that and in the next over, the sixth, reached his 50 off 30 balls with a six against Udal. After that the murderous pace rarely dropped. He was 63 when Stewart edged into double-figures and had faced 56 balls when his century came up in the eighteenth over. By the time he had reached 150, off 84 balls, it was clear that all individual one-day records were there for the taking. There were still 12 overs to go.

He passed Gooch's record with one of his biggest sixes, on to the roof of a marquee at long-on off Bovill, and clipped Renshaw through the leg side for his second century. Stephenson being first to shake his hand. A few minutes later, Brown unintentionally returned the gesture by slicing the next ball he faced — the first of the final over — into the hands of the Hampshire captain at cover.

Brown's pyrotechnics inspired a steady stream of latecomers, in addition to those unaware that this televised match was to start almost an hour earlier than normal. By the time he was making history, many had erected platforms to view from the road and 4,000 were inside the ground.

Surrey made 344 for five and Hampshire were never in with a chance. Considering they lost Hayden in the first over, 276 was a worthy effort. Udal was their top scorer with 78 from 56 balls.

Brown, 27, who played three one-day internationals last year, will represent England in the Hong Kong Sixes in September and may have played himself in the one-day team for Sharjah three months later. He will be back at Guildford today for a benefit match for Martin Bicknell, starting at 1.30pm.

Impressive Headley passes fitness test

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss; Leicestershire (4pts) beat Kent by 33 runs

IF IT is possible to relate a sharp burst on a Sunday to the grind of a five-day Test match, then any doubts that there may have been over the fitness of Dean Headley for the forthcoming fourth Test appear to have been dispelled. He could not prevent Leicestershire from nipping up a useful 285 for seven yesterday, but he did produce a fast second spell of bowling that removed three batsmen from the opposing middle order in 14 balls for 12 runs, including the wickets of James Whiteaker and Jon Dakin with successive balls.

No ill-effects were reported afterwards, except by Dakin. He received a nasty, swinging yorker full on the foot, which left him with bad bruising. Otherwise, Leicestershire finished in good shape, completing the double over Kent.

They piled on the runs, thanks chiefly to Vince Wells and James Whiteaker — Wells made his 69 from 80 balls.

Whiteaker's 60 came from only 58 balls — and a last-gasp fling from Ben Smith, which lasted only 23 balls and yielded 37, and Kent, despite Trevor Ward making 40 at virtually a run a ball, were never really able to get to grips with the task of scoring at an overall rate of more than six an over. Jason Ormond was wild but effective in getting rid of Walker and Allan Wells, who can hardly find a run any where these days. Ealham, dropped on one, was run out at the non-striker's end. When Marsh spotted a catch to mid-wicket, half the Kent batsmen were out for 115 and nearly 25 overs had gone.

Although Nixon damaged a hand and Vince Wells was drafted in to keep wicket, there was little danger of Leicestershire losing their grip. Long took 15 off an over by Mason and went past fifty in 49 balls, which included two fours and three sixes but Kent still required 97 from the last ten overs. When Long was bowled, they were doomed, for all Fleming's desperate attempt to revive them.



Brown's hard hitting may earn him a recall to England's one-day side this winter

Grayson steers Essex home

By ALASTAIR STORIE

NORTHAMPTON (Essex won toss; Essex (4pts) beat Northamptonshire by two wickets

ESSEX retained their position at the top of the table after a thrilling two-wicket win over Northamptonshire. Their victory, though warranted, was not an entirely assured performance but confirmed that they had the ability and match-winning composure beyond Law and Hussain.

Having elected to field on a pitch slightly uneven in bounce, they restricted a Northants top order short of First XI cricket, and the pressure resulted in Montgomery's needless run out. When Sales played around his front pad to his first ball from Such, Northants were 46 for three and stagnating. The onus then rested with Northants' two most experienced batsmen — Capel, returning from a broken thumb, and Bailey, who endured a pair in the championship.

Content at this juncture to pick up singles, the score after 24 overs was only 78. It was now that drastic measures were implemented, with 78 runs coming from the next eight overs.

The physicality of Bailey's play was impressive and the positive effect on Capel necessary. While both were at the crease a match winning score of 220 was a reality. A neglect of the importance of singles saw Capel and Bailey fall in successive overs. This left the lower order seven overs to

build on 168. One hundred and ninety eight should not have posed problems for the highly respected Essex line-up but they found similar difficulties in initiating momentum against the new ball. Paul Taylor was justly rewarded for a linear opening spell with the wicket of the captain Prichard.

Nasser Hussain's incisive calling, having pushed Capel to backward point, accounted for an ominous looking Law. To compound things he then reverse swept the ebullient Snape to Sales at backward point having frustratingly acquired a fluency.

Grayson and Irani played sensible cricket and took Essex to within reach of their target. However, with the re-introduction of the accurate Taylor, the run rate crept up forcing Irani to improvise unsuccessfully.

Grayson's Sunday best of 69 from 51 balls was the decisive innings of the day and, with one ball left to score two, he calmly eased Embury to dead mid-wicket for the two wicket win.

With the pitch offering movement and variable bounce, Sussex played few authentic strokes. Only Neil Taylor, with 47, and Rajesh Rao batted with conviction. The twin demands of survival and quick scoring were too much for the other batsmen, who encountered most difficulties against Ian Austin, who produced figures of one for 14 from eight overs, with his medium pace.

The other bowlers benefited from the constraints he imposed. Peter Martin returned three for 26, including the wicket of Peter Moores, who held together the lower order to ensure that the ailing innings at least lasted its full course.

With the total on 115 for five after 30 overs, that seemed a fond hope, especially after Darren Shadford removed Keith Newell and Vashet Drakes. Few such alarms hindered Lancashire. Atherton turned a catch to short mid-wicket and John Crawley was taken at the wicket; but victory followed inexorably with 51 overs to spare.

Durham fall flat in Scarborough frolic

By PAT GIBSON

SCARBOROUGH (Durham won toss; Yorkshire (4pts) beat Durham by 138 runs

THE Scarborough Festival in all its glory was utterly wasted on Durham yesterday. A packed crowd basking in glorious sunshine, a benign pitch and a fast outfield could not lift them from their annual mid-season trough as they collapsed pitifully to their eighth defeat in ten Axa Life League games.

There were signs in the early weeks of the season that the arrival of David Boon to take charge of their cricket might have given them some impetus at last, but the way they have played over the past few days suggests that they have not progressed at all.

At least Yorkshire did their best to entertain the expectant throng. They soon lost Byas, caught in the gully off Brown, but then White and Lehmann embarked on a second wicket stand which was to plunder 130 in 18 overs.

Bolting gave Durham a glimmer of hope by taking three wickets in eight balls. Lehmann skyed to cover after hitting 77 off 60 balls. Hartley got off to long-on and White (64 off 68 balls) with six fours clipping to mid-wicket. Blakey and Parker picked up the pace again, however, before McGrath went in to thrash 51 off 26 balls, hitting a six and six fours. This completed a significant festival for the England A batsmen who had been badly out of form but has now made four 50s and 100 in five innings.

The rest was a dismal anticlimax. Durham had spent their enlivened Saturday off practising and Morris even had a session yesterday morning with his batting guru, Graham Gooch, but it was all to no avail. Morris was promptly yanked by Gough. Speight and Boon never got going and only Hutton held up Yorkshire for long. He was eventually stumped for 40 off Fisher, a left-arm spinner deputising for the sick Stump, who went on to take two for 24 on his Sunday debut. Then White hit the stumps four times to achieve his best figures in the competition.

Astle varies the pace as untidy hosts are made to pay

By A CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (Nottinghamshire won toss; Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Warwickshire by 87 runs

WARWICKSHIRE paid a heavy penalty for a ragged display in the field as they surrendered the leadership of the Axa Life League and were outplayed by a vigorous Nottinghamshire side at Trent Bridge yesterday.

Warwickshire's ground fielding was untidy, their throwing often wayward and, having allowed Nottinghamshire to score 40 runs more than they should have on a worn pitch, they batted poorly.

It was certainly not the performance of prospective champions and, having suffered their fourth defeat in the competition, Warwickshire will probably now have to settle for place money.

A target of 230 should have been within their compass, but, apart from an aggressive 56-ball half-century from Douggie Brown, they failed to come to terms with Nathan Astle's variations of pace.

Astle, the New Zealand all-rounder, had Trevor Penney well-taken down the leg side by Wayne Noon, although Brown appeared unhappy with the decision by Vanburn Holder, the umpire. Brown's mood was not improved when he was smartly stumped by Noon as he toppled over playing forward to Astle and, when Ashley Giles was trapped leg-before to give Astle Sunday-best bowling figures of three for 22, Warwickshire's challenge faded.

Mark Bowen mopped up the tail to finish with four for 29 as Warwickshire declined from 94 for three to 142 all out. Nottinghamshire's competitive total was based around two substantial partnerships after Dominic Ostler held a blinding slip catch to account for Guy Welton and Astle was run out first ball attempting an unlikely single.

Graeme Archer (53) and Tim Robinson (38) steadied the ship with contrasting half-centuries in a fourth-wicket stand of 94, and Robinson then joined Chris Tolley in a productive half-century partnership for the next wicket.

Robinson struck only one boundary in his fifty, but he was donated four extra runs by a wild throw from Brown that was symptomatic of Warwickshire's untidy fielding. Robinson's second boundary came courtesy of a missed catch by David Hemp on the square leg boundary and, although he top-edged to third man soon after, Tolley sustained the innings with a resourceful 43.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION LEAGUE

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

CHELTONHAM (Derbyshire won toss; Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Derbyshire by seven wickets

DERBYSHIRE
A.S. Rolfe c Russell b Smith 20
S. Adams c Lynch b Lewis 21
G.A. Khan c Lynch b Aliaga 20
K.J. Bennett c Hancock b Smith 20
Y.P. Clarke c Hancock b Young 6
P.A. J. De Freitas c Lewis b Hancock 27
K.M. Kitchener c Aliaga b Young 39
P. Aldred b Young 39
M.J. Vandana run out 6
A.J. Harris not out 5
Extras (b 1, w 4, nb 9) 248
Total (28.2 overs) 348
K.J. Dean did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-82, 3-88, 4-83, 5-124, 6-204, 7-207, 8-246, 9-246.
BOWLING: Lewis 8-0-35-1; Smith 8-0-32-2; Aliaga 7-0-35-1; Young 8-1-51-3; Ball 5-0-35-0; Hancock 4-0-22-1.

GLoucestershire
A.J. Wright c Rolfe b Aldred 27
T.H. Hancock c Adams b Harris 46
S. Young c and b Dean 85
M.A. Lynch not out 54
M.W. Lewis c and b Smith 15
Extras (b 5, w 9, nb 6) 20
Total (21 wickets, 32.4 overs) 247
R. Dawson, T.R. C. Russell, M.C.J. Ball, M.G. A. Widdows, A.M. Smith and J.J. Lewis did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-72, 2-83, 3-228.
BOWLING: De Freitas 8-0-54-0; Dean 8-0-55-1; Aldred 8-0-38-1; Harris 7-0-50-1; Vandana 5-0-51-0; Clarke 2-0-13-0.
Umpires: D.R. Shepherd and J.F. Steele.

Kent v Leicestershire
CANTERBURY (Kent won toss; Leicestershire (4pts) beat Kent by 20 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE
M.C. Johnson run out 3
V.J. Wells c McCague b Strong 89
J. Batty c and b Strong 15
J. Whisker b Headley 80
D.L. Maddy b Headley 81
J.F. Smith c Thompson b McCague 27
J.M. Dallen b Headley 0
J.P. Atherton not out 28
J. Mason not out 17
Extras (b 4, w 3, nb 6) 17
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 228
D. Williamson and J. Ormond did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-81, 3-146, 4-180, 5-182, 6-182, 7-227.
BOWLING: Thompson 4-0-20-0; Headley 7-0-20-3; Wells 6-1-16-1; Williamson 7-0-20-1; Mason 4-0-35-1; Maddy 5-0-40-0.
Umpires: B.J. Meyer and N.E. Palmer.

Lancashire v Sussex
OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss; Lancashire (4pts) beat Sussex by eight wickets

SUSSEX
K. Greenfield c Lloyd b Austin 4
C.W. J. Ashley c Hogg b Martin 3
G.C. West c Martin b Austin 10
M. Newell b Shadford 10
N.R. Taylor b Taylor 47
K. Newell c Hogg b Shadford 11
V.C. Drakes b Shadford 11
F.W. Jones b Martin 4
A. Robinson not out 4
R.J. Kettleby not out 2
Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 1, nb 2) 29
Total (18 wickets, 40 overs) 220
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-11, 3-37, 4-108, 5-115, 6-125, 7-148, 8-182, 9-182.
BOWLING: Austin 8-1-14-1; Martin 8-0-34-0; Shadford 8-0-47-2; Gailan 8-1-24-0; Yates 8-0-44-2.

Lancashire
M.A. Atherton c Taylor b Robinson 56
J.E. Gollan not out 47
J.P. Crawley c Moore b Jarvis 9
N.H. Fairbrother not out 34
K. Newell b 3, w 7, nb 27 29
Total (20 wickets, 34.5 overs) 171
D.C. Lloyd, M. Williamson, I.D. Austin, T.W. K. Hogg, G. Yates, P.J. Martin and D.J. Shadford did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-103, 2-130.
BOWLING: Drakes 8-1-11-0; Kettleby 5-0-57-0; Jarvis 8-1-30-1; Robinson 8-0-41-1; K. Newell 2-0-15-0; Ross 3-0-30-0.
Umpires: D.J. Constant and R. J. J. J.

Northamptonshire v Essex
NORTHAMPTON (Essex won toss; Essex (4pts) beat Northamptonshire by two wickets

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
R.R. Montgomery run out 13
A. Pennington c Rolfe b Irani 6
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K.J. Lines not out 7
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Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 10, nb 6) 39
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 188
J.P. Taylor did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-26, 3-84, 4-168, 5-172, 6-182, 7-182, 8-187.
BOWLING: Capel 8-0-37-2; Irani 8-0-28-2; D.R. Law 3-0-15-0; Such 3-0-30-1; S. G. Law 3-0-40-0; Grayson 3-0-35-0.
Umpires: J.H. Hampshire and P. V. V.

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Total (18 wickets, 40 overs) 220
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Umpires: D.R. Shepherd and J.F. Steele.

Worcestershire v Glamorgan

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by 45 runs

Worcestershire
A. Singh b Oram 1
N.M.K. Smith c Welton b Bowen 6
D.R. Brown at Noon b Astle 8
D.L. Hemp c Lynch b Dean 26

BOXING

Majestic Hamed still waiting to conquer America

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NASEEM HAMED is almost certainly the best featherweight in the world. He has won two championships belts, of the World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation, and can lift the titles of the other two world organisations without too much bother. Since these baubles do not give boxers anything more than contender status, though, Hamed may have to prove himself in other quarters.

"Anyone you put in front of me will get beat," he said after disposing of Juan Cabrera, of Argentina, in two rounds at Wembley Arena on Saturday. This would certainly be true were he to meet the other two world champions, Luisito Espinosa, of the Philippines, the World Boxing Association champion, and Wilfredo Vasquez, of Puerto Rico, the World Boxing Council title-holder.

Even if three quarters of the world is happy to measure Hamed by the yardstick of the self-serving men who preside over these spurious titles, the United States remains sceptical. Hamed must convince Americans of his standing in the world if he wants the money and recognition that they can give him.

To win them over, Hamed may have to beat challengers that American television lines up for him. There is already talk of Hamed, from Sheffield, taking part in a tournament on HBO, the American cable television channel, to find the best featherweight in the world.

As Alex Wallau, the commentator and analyst for ABC television, which put on the bout between Hamed and Cabrera, said: "No one in the featherweight division can give him a fight. Not Espinosa or Vasquez, especially not Espinosa. If he hits Espinosa like he hit Cabrera, he'll jump right out of the ring. Espinosa has no chin. The only ones who can give him a fight are Junior Jones and Marco Barrera moving up."

A "major announcement" will be made next week, Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, said. With a bit of luck, it may have something to do with Hamed boxing in the United States or here against opponents chosen by American television.

Hamed made his first appearance on American national television on Saturday when ABC showed the contest on *Wide World of Sport*. It is thought that around eight million viewers saw him. Because of other summer interests, it was nowhere near the full exposure that free television can usually provide, but it was certainly better than the viewing figures that cable outlets achieve.

American reactions were not immediately available. Hamed smashed Cabrera round the ring for two rounds and forced the referee to call a halt to the bout. It is unlikely, however, that American boxing followers were too impressed, for Cabrera was not a true world contender. He was no more than a club fighter.

MARK THOMPSON / ALLSPORT



Hamed celebrates after his second-round victory

and a sparring partner who came in as a replacement at seven days' notice for Pastor Maurin, the original opponent, another Argentinian of dubious quality.

Still, Hamed is hardly to blame. He beat, or rather beat up, the man they put in front of him and the crowd of around 7,000 loved it. Hamed landed some tremendous spearing uppercuts that should take some of his future opponents by surprise.

Wallau said that, while his viewers were entertained by Hamed, he could not say whether they were impressed with him. Wallau, who has always wanted Hamed on his network, said: "I would love to have him again, but against a decent opponent. This guy was all cut up seven weeks ago and busted up three weeks ago. You can put on this sort of fight once, maybe twice, but you can't do this for ever. Once you've seen the show, you want to see a fight. I don't know how it went down, but I'm sure, once they tuned in, they didn't turn off."

"You can't see this fight and not want to be there when he meets somebody of substance. The thing I admire about him is that he puts so much pressure on himself with all that hoopla and still remains relaxed and performs confidently. After all that, if you get beat, you have to dig a hole and never come out for the rest of your life."

"A lot of people will look at him and say [Hector] Camacho, but this kid has a lot more. Camacho is not macho. He's a safety-first guy. This kid is not safety first. If he didn't fight, he would really be boring."

Wallau said that Hamed was not yet ready to top bills in the United States and that he needed more exposure. "His fights must be competitive and sellable," he said. "He needs time to establish himself. He can't just walk in off one fight."

The best bout of the night was between Kevin Luethgen, of Beckenham, the British welterweight champion, and Geoff McCreech, of Bracknell. It was a fight all the way, with McCreech gradually taking control. He floored Luethgen in the fourth and the referee stopped the fight in the tenth.

The British super-middleweight championship bout between David Starie, of Ipswich, and Dean Francis, from Basingstoke, was a disappointment. Starie hardly put up a fight and Francis put him down in the fifth before the referee stepped in.



Rolph has smooth water ahead in the butterfly leg as she races to victory in the 200 metres individual medley

Smith proves fitness in style

By CRAIG LORD

GRAEME SMITH will go to the European swimming championships in Seville next month brimming with confidence after a superb performance on the final day of the ASA national championships at Crystal Palace. Smith, 21, who will be challenging for the European 1,500 metres freestyle crown, clinched his first national long-course 400 metres title yesterday in 3min 55.86sec, almost two seconds inside his previous best time when racing untrained from heavy training.

"I'm really happy with that," Smith, who won a 1,500 metres bronze medal at the Olympic Games last year, said. He had every right to be, for after turning at the 300 metres mark in line with Ian Wilson and Jamie Salter,

his Great Britain team-mates, he drove away from them with Ferrari-like acceleration. Clearly, he has never been so fit.

Smith, born in Falkirk and raised in Stockport, where he has been trained since he was a small boy by Dave Calleja, is clear about his ambition. "It's the winning that counts in Seville," he said. "The bonus will be if I can get under the 15 minutes mark."

He will not want for motivation, either. As if chasing a championship was not enough, Smith expressed disappointment yesterday that he had received less in grants from the National Lottery than some swimmers who were ranked outside the top 20 in the world. "It should be performance-related, but they're working on some kind of points system instead of the world rankings," he

said. He argued that it sent the wrong signal to young swimmers to show that you could win an Olympic medal and still be less financially rewarded than others.

Yet Smith's display was upstaged by Richard Madden, of Rochdale Aquabears. Madden had already won the 50 metres and 100 metres breaststroke titles and, in adding the 200 metres in 2min 18.85sec, he became the first swimmer to win long-course titles over all three distances on one stroke. His efforts earned him the Bill Juba Trophy.

Madden's thunder might have been stolen in turn two races earlier by Stephen Parry, of Liverpool, who, on Saturday, had added the 200 metres butterfly national title to the 100 metres prize won on Thursday. However, he found the going a bit tougher

over 50 metres, finishing third to David Jones, of Ealing, and James Hickman, of Stockport.

Susan Rolph, of Newcastle, preferring to concentrate her efforts on Seville, had not wanted to compete in the championships, but, having been pressed to do so, she said yesterday that she was glad that she was at Crystal Palace. After winning the 200 metres individual medley, Rolph, 18, said: "That felt great. It just helps a bit to know where you are with fitness and speed."

The last word went yet again to the respected Kathy Osher, of Belling, At 28, she was one of the most experienced swimmers at the championships and yesterday collected a record 26th national long-course backstroke title in winning the 50 metres. She won her first in 1984.

ROWING

Searle races away to set another record

By A CORRESPONDENT

GREG SEARLE, who eclipsed the 14-year-old British sculling record, set by Steve Redgrave, by nine seconds on Saturday, went even better in the single sculls final in Nottingham yesterday, when he shaved a further two seconds off his record-winning time of 6min 53sec.

There was less of a tail wind this time, but Searle still went out determined to achieve a new mark. He will now concentrate on his preparations for the world championships, in France, in September.

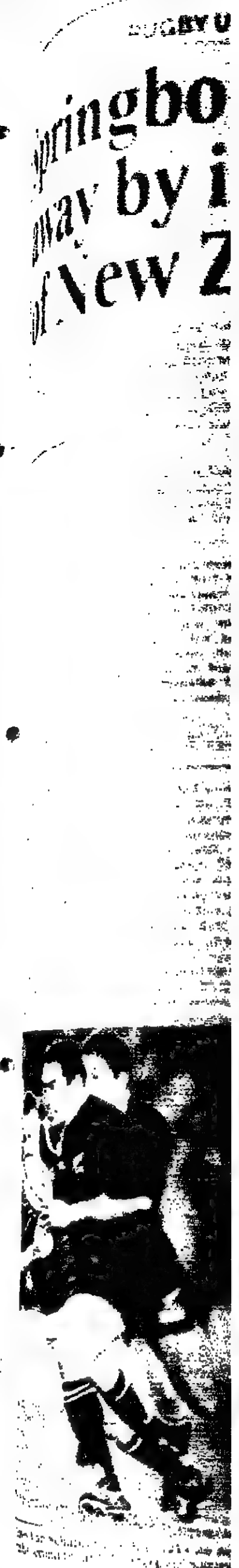
The NCRA/Newcastle University coxed four, who were narrowly beaten at Henley Royal Regatta and had been representing Great Britain in the World Cup regatta earlier in the year, won their event and can now face further trials for the senior team next month with renewed confidence.

Several crews whose selection was announced last week for the junior, under-23 and Coupe de la Jeunesse teams, were in action yesterday.

In the men's quadruple sculls, the two composites selected for the Nation's Cup (under-23) next week and the world junior championships in August battled it out all the way to the line. The under-23s secured victory and, in the process, lowered the record by four seconds to below six minutes.

In the last race of the championships, the men's eight, Nottingham Boat Club, the winners of the Thames Cup at Henley, came head to head with the selected Nation's Cup eight, who had broken the record in their heat on Saturday. The under-23s eight had a slight lead after 500 metres, but the local crew had planned the race well and took over the lead at the halfway point and held a one-length advantage for the remainder of the race.

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Searle ensures a

THE TIMES

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SAILING

Bridesmaids savour rare taste of victory

JOHN MERRICKS and Ian Walker, the Olympic silver medal-winners, were the bridesmaids at the Wickford 24 UK class national championships at Weymouth yesterday.

Merrick and Walker, who contested five top regattas last year and finished second in every one, were thrilled at their success with *Bridesmaids No Longer*.

Merrick said: "With more than 30 boats with professional crews fighting to win, the competition was tight, but it feels good to win at last. We have thoroughly enjoyed our three days in Weymouth and

are now looking forwards to competing for the Admiral's Cup at Cowes."

Wickford 24, skippered by Art Brereton, of the United States, lost the overnight lead to finish overall second. Her lead diminished in light weather conditions on the final day and a false start to the eighth race meant that there was little chance of recovery.

Must Go, skippered by Keith Musto, finished third. *Glenfiddich 1*, skippered by Kevin Spool, won the seventh and eighth races, but the two boats were too late and they finished fourth overall.

SPEEDWAY: RACERS RELISH TENTH CONSECUTIVE WIN IN PREMIER LEAGUE

Reading's challenge shifts up a gear

By TONY HOARE

READING Racers set a club record and took a firm grip on the Premier League title with a victory at Oxford's Cowley Stadium on Friday night. It was their tenth straight league win.

Taking the points from Oxford, who also have designs on league honours, gave Reading immense satisfaction. The clubs have not been on the best of terms since a Reading appeal early in the season deprived Oxford of an away win at Smallmead in the Premier League Cup.

The ten-match opening winning streak makes Reading

favourites for the Premier League title. They won league titles in 1990 and two of their riders gained places on the world championship rostrum.

Per Jonsson took the title and Todd Wiltshire came third. A further league title was added in 1992.

Tragedy struck two years later when Jonsson was paralysed in a crash at a Polish track. Without their main attraction, Reading opted to compete in the Premier League rather than the new Elite League, but they have lived up to their illustrious status at that level.

Reading will attempt to add cup success to their league

challenge when they meet Edinburgh in the semi-final second leg at Smallmead tonight.

They are chasing a 12-point deficit from the first leg, in Edinburgh last month. Edinburgh are a powerful outfit, but Reading have a strong incentive to beat them — a final against Oxford.

Meanwhile, troubled Skegness look to have ridden their last Premier League match. The club's projected move to Ryde, on the Isle of Wight, broke down when a "test run" meeting there failed to attract a large enough crowd. Peter Oakes, the Skegness promoter, turned his

attention to a third holiday resort, St Austell, but the newly-formed amateur league club, which has drawn impressive crowds, turned Oakes down after an impromptu straw poll of supporters at their match against a combined Ipswich and Kings Lynn side last Tuesday.

Oakes clung to hopes of a "last-minute rescue package" at the weekend, but conceded that Skegness were likely to have ridden their last meeting. Vince Moody, the Skegness stadium owner, said that he had not given up on speedway and was considering other offers for racing at the venue.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

Section 217(1)(a)

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Section 217(1)(c)

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James Henderson reports on the Mitel Challengers Trophy, when charity and business compete



All together now: in the Ribble Valley 60 teams from British companies took part in the four-day Mitel Challengers Trophy, a series of mental and physical tests from orienteering and mountain-biking to abseiling and mind games

The duck that kept us foxed

The plastic duck floated about in the middle of the lake. We stood on the shore and faced a fruitless dilemma. With three logs, a bit of rope and the summary brainpower of four people we had to retrieve the duck, but none of the materials or people were allowed to touch the water.

Our task was part of this year's Mitel Challengers Trophy, a gathering of 60 or so teams from British companies which compete over four days in a series of mental and physical tests. These are as varied as orienteering, mountain-biking and abseiling, there are cryptic clues and mind-games, and even a variation on a theme of Jenga (the pub game in which you pull out blocks without making the tower collapse).

This year the event was held in the magnificent grounds of Stonyhurst College, a Roman Catholic public school in the Ribbles Valley, Lancashire. I joined the Charity Team, made up of employees of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, this year's beneficiary, for which the competitors were raising money.



Own transport: take one boat, run to the reservoir and row

The team was made up of Rebecca, the captain, who is partially sighted, having contracted glaucoma at an unexpectedly early age; Alex, later to be poised precariously over a certain lake on a contraption of logs and bits of string, fingertips outstretched towards a yellow duck; and a quiet, contemplative fellow called Josh. Victor Ubogu was in attendance but unfortunately couldn't join in because he was suffering from a groin injury (sustained during one of his bimonthly fitness tests at Bath rugby club).

At first, I was slightly boggled by all the activity. Teams of four, dressed in brightly coloured suits that were cinched at the waist, were zooming about purposefully, racing from one clue to the next with breathless, unself-conscious enthusiasm.

It would be easy to take the mickey. The competitors were hardly the hard men, or

women, of sport. But they clearly enjoyed the physical and mental combination that the Challenge offers and this is the big event of the year.

The event has been going for eight years. It grew in parallel with the increase in team-building and management training courses (the weekends away in which you... well, use logs and bits of string to cross rivers without getting wet) and it sets these activities in a competitive framework. There are eight "stages" over the three or four days. The Mitel Challenge sells itself as a business event and quite a few of Britain's largest blue-chip companies take part. Companies see a certain cachet in taking part,

and there is plenty of opportunity for networking with other competitors. Team members also form useful bonds within companies.

For all the team-building aspects of the event (and most of the senior executives felt it benefited their employees), the competitors are there because they enjoy taking part. "It's nice to get out of the office for a few days and to be paid to do this," said a member of the Tetrapak team, who came a credible 15th. A fair few teams are there to win.

The Challenge differs from other events in that it is not purely physical, like a triathlon. Fitness is clearly important, but there is an extra dimension, which tests mental agility and it is equally important to be a quick thinker to be able to solve the puzzles and dilemmas thrown at you along the way. Unlike so many multi-discipline events, which are becoming ever longer and more demanding (marathons turn into ultramarathons and triathlons into ironmans), the organisers have kept it at a level suitable for all comers.

"We try to set a course which



is demanding enough to put people under pressure, but which is achievable for the majority of entrants. And, of course, we want to maintain interest so that they have fun at the same time," Philip Pearce, the course designer, said.

That is not to say that the competition isn't keen. I saw no slackening off in the later stages when people were struggling in the July sun around an orienteering course with a difference (there is a complicated system of bonus checkpoints) and then an "Estimation Stage" in the hills of the Forest of Bowland, in which teams had to state their finish time in advance. Woe betide anyone who didn't make it - this would add huge penalties to their eventual time. The last three stages were a night navigation exercise with catapult construction, a bridge-building stage, and a run, paddle and assault course to the finish line.

Experience is also important and the most successful teams use their strengths to best advantage: navigation is given to one person, problem-solving to another. Suddenly you see team-building in action: delegation and efficient allocation of resources.

A team from the government communications department GCHQ entered this year. Naturally, they were given 007 as a running number. They wore it with a certain pride, and they made everyone laugh by turning up in full James Bond black-tie at the final party. The idea was to give the department a little higher profile, to show businesses that secret squirrels aren't all nerds and boffins.

My question whether there were any codebreakers in the team was side-stepped with a big smile and "I'm sorry, I can't answer that question," but one of the runners admitted that the department probably attracts people who enjoy solving problems. They were

doing well for a while, but slipped down the order when they had a problem in the orienteering stage.

The eventual winners were the Orange Roamers, one of three teams from Orange, the telecom company. Mark Evans, the project office manager, co-ordinated the sides. "The team put in a lot of training as individuals and then got together at weekends so they were fit, fast and they believed in themselves. Going into the final stage they were half a minute behind, but they gave it everything they had and they came out 32 seconds ahead," he said.

In the end I think that the RNIB were pleased not to come last, which the charity team often does. They were also very pleased to receive £172,000, raised by the competitors. But to Alex's disappointment, on the problem of the yellow duck, we didn't do so well. Whoops. Splash!



Last gasp: in the final stages of the event, contestants take part in an assault course

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

How do you think the following two hands should be bid, playing a weak No-Trump, with West the dealer?

♠ KJ54	♥ A	♦ AQ82	♣ 4
♠ 653	♥ K	♦ 7	♣ K108654
♠ A865	♥ Q	♦ 43	
♠ A7	♥ S		

According to Tom Townsend, world junior champion and author of a handbook called *Practise Your Stayman*, the bidding should go:

S	W	N	E
Pass	1NT	Pass	2C
All Pass	2S		4C

Had West rebid Two Diamonds or Two Hearts, East would have signed off in a safe Three Clubs. When West bids Two Spades East is right to raise full-bloodedly to game. Inviting with Three Spades would be futile: West's fitting black-suit honours and red-suit controls will decide whether game is playable, not whether his point-count happens to be a minimum or a maximum. Here West turns up with just the right 12-count.

This handbook is one in the new Bridge Plus Practice Series. Other titles include *Practise Your... Crowhurst Two Clubs*, *Negative Doubles*, *Roman Key-Card Blackwood*, *Transfer Bidding* and *Weak Twos*. There are six more titles in preparation, four on bidding, one on declarer play and one on opening leads. Clearly geared especially for the duplicate market, the series offers players of all levels the opportunity to learn how top-class players handle useful conventions and to practise them with their partners. Each 16-page booklet consists of an introduction explaining how the convention works, 24 East-West practice hands to bid with partner, and finally the correct bidding sequences with full explanations.

All titles can be obtained from Bridge Plus, PO Box 384, Reading RG1 5TP; tel/fax: 0118-935 1052 at £3.50 each; two copies of the same titles can be had for £5; one copy of each of the six titles £15.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- STUFATA
a. A foolish error
b. A Sultan's handmaiden
c. A sort of stew
- SOLWY
a. A sun-worshipping cult
b. A fisherman's jacket
c. To be dirty
- SUASORY
a. Sickly sweet
b. Persuasive
c. Moving smoothly
- SPRUNK
a. Display of wealth
b. Offspring of Welsh otter
c. To improve one's appearance

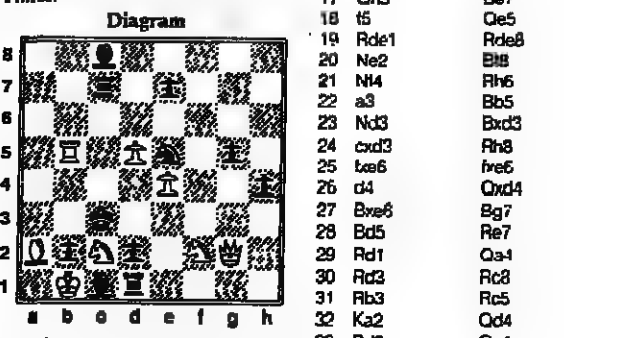
Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Final reminder

This is your final reminder to enter the British chess-solving championship. The problem is White to play and mate in two moves against any Black defence. Send a cheque or postal order for £3 and a stamped addressed envelope with your entry, which should consist of White's first move only to: British Chess Problem Society, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterhouse, Sheffield, S19 6ND. Please mention that you are entering via *The Times*.



The championship is open only to UK residents. The closing date is July 31, 1997.

Dortmund tournament

I conclude my coverage of the elite tournament at Dortmund with a win by the Bulgarian grandmaster Topalov which prevented Anand from catching up with the winner of the first prize, Kramnik.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Dortmund, July 1997

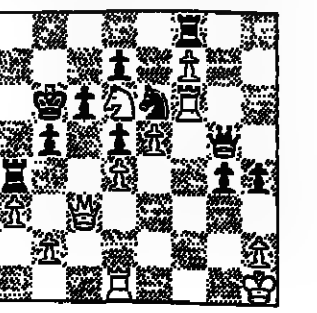
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Donev - Floramont, Switzerland 1997. Can you see how White now made a key breakthrough and exposed weaknesses in the black position?

Solution on page 46



Tangle over Dettori's King George ride

هكذا من الألف

Schools champion follows her father on path to international athletics

Daddy's girl out to match his record

BY JOHN GOODBODY

ANDY CARTER was the supreme British 800 metres runner of the early 1970s. He won a bronze medal in the European championships, reached finals at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games and held the British record until it was beaten by Sebastian Coe.

Nine days ago, he sat in the stands in Sheffield to watch his daughter, Alex, take the senior 1,500 metres title at the TSB English schools championships.

Alex, 17, is already following her father's footsteps into international athletics. This week, she is part of the 80-strong British team for the European Youth Olympic Days in



Alex Carter, centre, the English schools 1,500 metres champion, is developing into a junior athlete of tremendous potential

SPORT

IN SCHOOLS

Lisbon, in which more than 45 countries will be taking part.

It will be a foretaste for some youngsters of the aura of the Olympic Games, an incentive for them to see what they can achieve with talent and application.

Alex, a pupil at Sir John Deane's College, in Hartford, Cheshire, has already shown a gradual, rather than a spectacular, rise towards success. At primary school, she was not dominant as a runner.

There is always a temptation for a father as celebrated and successful as Carter was in his career to push his child towards his favourite sport. This did not occur with Alex.

Carter, now 48 and a finance director of a consulting engineering firm, said: "When she went on to Weaverham High School, I remember her coming back home to tell us that there was a cross-country club and that she was going to join. She did it off her own bat."

In the 1996 English schools championships, Alex was fourth in the intermediate 1,500 metres, but it was a decisive race in her career because it demonstrated Alex's potential to herself.

Carter said: "It made her realise that she was better than she thought she was. Alex was off the pace at the start of the last lap, but still passed a lot of people before the finish."

"She knew then that if she had kept closer to the leaders she could have finished in the first two. That race concentrated her mind. I have always known that she had the ability, but she had not always shown it."

This year she finished second in the AAA under-20 championships, for which she will be eligible for a further two years. She set a personal best of 4min 27.40sec in that event and at the English schools she defeated several of the runners who had finished ahead of her in 1996 to win in 4min 31.31sec.

Alex said: "The first three laps were quite slow with everyone bunched together. It was good for me because I have a fast finish."

Away she sprinted on the final lap, taking the lead with 150 metres to go and winning by two seconds from Tommasin Kemp, of Dorset. Alex is coached by John Davies at Vale Royal AC, although her father is, he said, "around to lend a

hand". With one break for two years, Carter has continued exercising regularly since his competitive days and he often runs with Alex and Thomas, her 14-year-old brother, another talented athlete, in the Cheshire woods.

Alex now trains six days a week while studying for three A levels, in biology, English and dance. Although demanding academic discipline, dance also has a practical side that is useful for athletics because of the requirements of suppleness.

Carter said: "This year was not really planned. We expected a few personal bests and perhaps fourth or fifth in the English schools. Still, I am pleased she is still developing further on in her teens because you do not always want to be the best at 13 or 14."

"The trip to Lisbon is something that most kids only dream about. Next year there are the English schools in my home town of Exeter and the world junior championships, and the year after there are the European juniors..."

His voice trailed off as he seemed to be remembering his own ascent to glory 30 years ago.



Carter, in his prime, takes the AAA 800 metres title in 1972

Fans forced to meet cost of loving football

Arsenal may be supplanting Chelsea as the favoured home of foreign players, but Chelsea's position as the most expensive ground to watch football in the FA Carling Premiership is safe. The top ticket price for the coming season at Stamford Bridge will be £50, which represents a 25 per cent increase on last season. Itself a 14 per cent hike on 1995-96, and makes the best Chelsea tickets around £15 more expensive than the good seats at their big London rivals, Tony Banks, Labour's Chelsea-supporting Sports Minister, has been rather quiet on the subject of the club's ticket prices, but it can hardly fit in with his principle of bringing sport to the people.

Alas, Chelsea's rapid ticket inflation is far from unique in the top flight. Research published recently by Case Associates, the think-tank run by Simon Bishop and Cento Veljanovski, and backed by Ashurst Morris Crisp, the City lawyers, showed that the price of tickets for top teams rose by 222 per cent between 1985 and 1995. This compares with a 52 per cent increase in the Retail Price Index, a 51 per cent jump in average cinema ticket prices and — to stretch the leisure choice comparison to its logical conclusion — a 99 per cent jump in the price of lager.

There is an argument that you are getting a better class of football for your money. If you compare the old first division with the Premiership today, there has been the influx of leading foreign players such as Eric Cantona, Dennis Bergkamp and Gianfranco Zola.

How, though, does football explain the inflation in the lower divisions? The first division prices have risen by 169 per cent over the ten years when compared with the old second division, new second division prices show a 151 per cent jump, and even the lowest division of the Football League has seen a 145 per cent hike in the cost of football.

There are various reasons for this. Most clubs would argue, with

some justification, that the amounts that they have had to spend upgrading their grounds to all-seater stadiums after the Taylor report into the Hillsborough disaster have justified putting up prices. Yet, by the same token, many top clubs are now gaining so much from merchandise and food and drink sales at their bright new grounds that this pays for the cost of upgrading. Selling off their old grounds for redevelopment has also been a lucrative trade.

The report, though, poses the question of whether top-flight football may be pricing itself too highly, supporting the proposition put forward by

Doug Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa, that pay-per-view television might hit attendances hard at the leading clubs. Case estimates that the live televising of Premiership matches by BSkyB, in which News International, publisher of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, cuts attendances at the games by up to 10 per cent. However, the Premier League's figures show an increase in the average attendances at matches of more than 30 per cent since the BSkyB contract started. Last year BSkyB showed 230 live matches, with the average gate in the Premiership 28,434.

Yet it looks like the high price of tickets may increase the appeal of pay-per-view. It has been generally assumed that pay-per-view will be priced at about £10 a game, but Case points out that, at £20 a game, it would still seem cheap when compared with the cost of a parent and two children paying upwards of £60 to attend a live match. At £20 a game, the report predicts that, by 2004, the value of pay-per-view to the Premier League could be as much as £2.3 billion a year.

Its on its way. There is a debate in football about when it will happen, but what it may do is hold back the rampant ticket inflation that is threatening to price many real supporters out of the game.

JASON NISSÉ

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

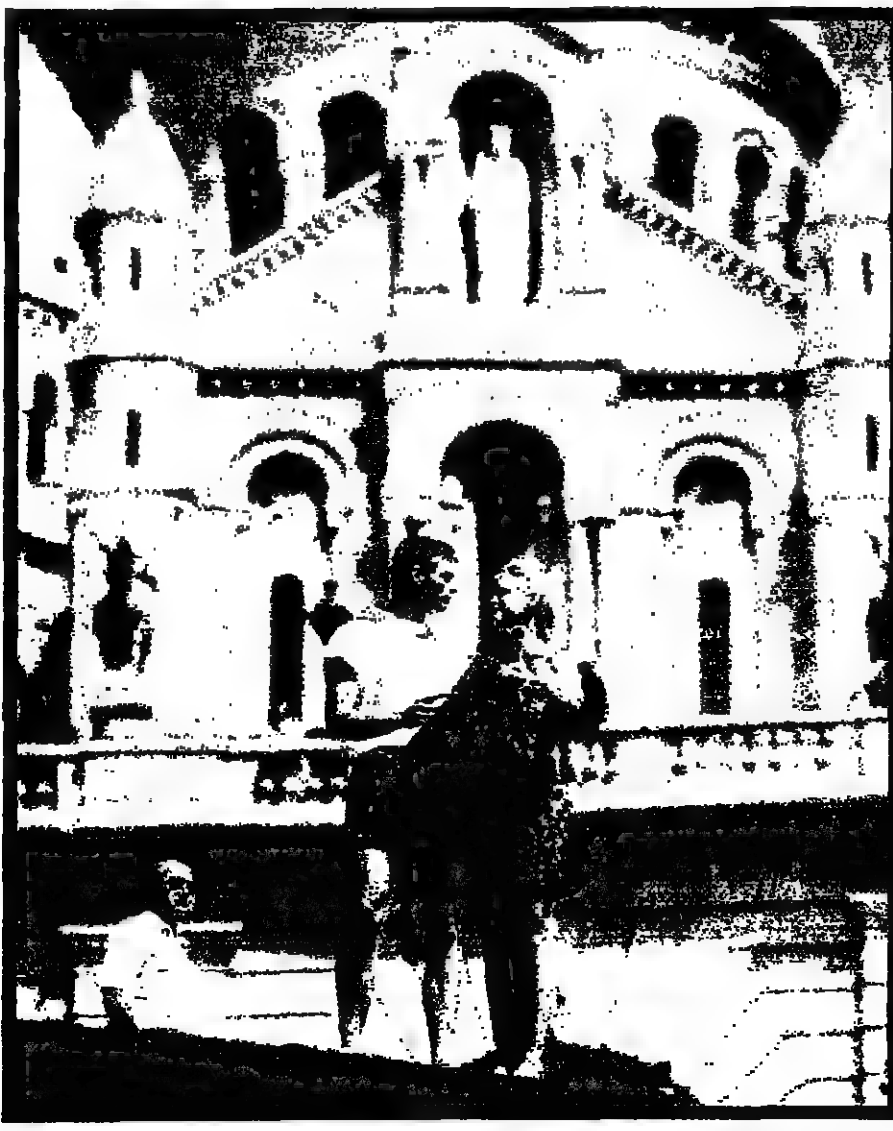
A two-night break in Paris from just £49

- RETURN CHANNEL CROSSING FOR A CAR AND FOUR PEOPLE*
- TWO NIGHTS AT THE MODERN THREE-STAR HOTEL LA VILLETTE
- FREE ONE-DAY ENTRY TO THE AQUABOULEVARD DE PARIS

This week *The Times* has teamed up with SeaFrance, the French ferry operator, and the quality French hotel group Forest Hill, to offer you a two-night city break in romantic Paris from as little as £49 per person. This special getaway package, is valid for a car and four people for travel between August 1 and September 30, 1997 (except the bank holiday weekend, Aug 21-24 inclusive). *Prices for a car and two people are £59 per person.

Your city break starts aboard the SeaFrance ferry at Dover for your crossing to Calais. In Paris you will enjoy a two-night stay on a room-only basis at the three-star Hotel La Villette, only 20 minutes from the city centre, which has two restaurants plus a tennis and squash club nearby. You will also receive a free one-day entry to the Aquaboulevard de Paris, just over 20 minutes from your hotel, an amazing complex featuring a huge aquadome with swimming pool and slides, water toboggan, wave machine, sauna, Turkish baths and jacuzzi, all of which are covered by your complimentary ticket. Other facilities, available at a small supplement, include tennis, ten-pin bowling and use of a fitness centre. The Aquaboulevard is open daily, 8am-11pm.

All you need to do is collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* this week and send them with the completed booking form, right. Extra nights are available at a supplement and travel insurance must be purchased.



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Bookings can be made for completed travel during the period August 1 to September 30, 1997, excluding August 21-24, 1997

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No of passengers: Adults _____ Children _____ Infants _____

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السنة 1418

Limit to judges' sentencing powers

**Regina v Kidd
Regina v Canavan
Regina v Shaw**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill,
Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice
Rose and Mr Justice Joffe

[Judgment July 10]
Judges could not take into account conduct not proved or admitted when sentencing the Court of Appeal Criminal Division, held Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, said that the issue could be expressed in the question whether, if a defendant was indicted and convicted on a count charging him with criminal conduct of a specified kind on a single occasion within a specified period, and such conduct was said by the prosecution to be representative of other criminal conduct of the same kind on other occasions not the subject of any other count in the indictment, the court might take account of such other conduct so as to increase the sentence if imposed, if the defendant did not admit the commission of other offences and did not ask the court to take them into consideration when passing sentence.

The proceedings were brought by:
(i) Philip Richard Kidd, aged 49, applying for leave to appeal against sentence, having been convicted by a jury at Derby Crown Court and sentenced by Judge Morrison on four counts of indecent assault to 15 months imprisonment on one count concurrent with terms of 12 months on each of the other three counts.

(ii) Darren Anthony Canavan, aged 25, convicted by a jury at Liverpool Crown Court and appealing against sentence: by Judge Hamilton, on counts charging dragging property, intimidating a witness, two of assault

occasioning actual bodily harm and wounding with intent, to terms totalling seven years.

(iii) Dennis Shaw, now aged 73, convicted on a 16-count indictment by a jury of eight counts of indecent assault and one of rape in relation to six victims and other offences and seeking leave to appeal against sentence by Judge Appleby, QC to terms totalling 12 years. The court upheld the terms, except that, in view of the circumstances and the appellant's medical condition, the 12-year sentence was quashed and eight years substituted.

Mr Res Teed, QC, for Shaw: Mr Stuart Driver for Canavan; Mr John Warren, QC for Kidd; Mr Victor Temple, QC and Mr Simon Laws for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to *R v Clark (Raymond)* [1996] 2 Cr App R (S) 351, *R v Bradshaw* [1997] Crim LR 339 and *R v Barry (John)* (unreported July 30, 1996 CA).

For many years prosecuting authorities had framed indictments including a small number of specimen or sample counts said to be representative of other criminal offences of a like kind committed by the defendant.

That might, for example, be done where a defendant was said to have sexually abused a child victim frequently over a period but the child was unable to particularise any specific occasion when abuse occurred.

Two or three counts, perhaps, might be included in the indictment. The prosecutor would make plain that those were specimen counts and the victim would give evidence of the frequency with which the abuse occurred.

The practice might also be adopted where, for example, a defendant was said to have ob-

tained money by deception on numerous occasions. Instead of burdening the indictment with numerous counts charging all the instances relied on, a few counts only might be included, and it would be made plain to the court and the jury that those were relied on as representative of a more extensive course of similar conduct.

If, in such a situation, the jury convicted the defendant on one or more specimen counts, the court's practice had been to pass a sentence which took account not simply of the specified instances in the counts but also of the conduct of which those counts were representative on the evidence adduced by the prosecution.

That was, undoubtedly, a convenient and economical way of proceeding in such cases. No objection had been raised to the practice when appeals had reached the Court of Appeal.

However, in the present cases submissions were made that the practice was contrary to fundamental principle and inconsistent with recent statutory provisions.

A defendant was not to be convicted of any offence with which he was charged unless and until his guilt was proved. Such guilt might be proved by his own admission or, on indictment, by the jury's verdict.

He could be sentenced only for an offence proved against him, by admission or verdict, or which he had admitted and asked the court to take into consideration when passing sentence: *R v Anderson* [1978] AC 964.

If, as their Lordships thought, those were basic principles underlying the administration of the criminal law, it was not easy to see how a defendant could lawfully be punished for offences for which he

had not been indicted and he had denied or declined to admit.

It was said that the trial judge, in the light of the jury's verdict, could form his own judgment of the evidence he had heard on the extent of the offending conduct beyond the instances specified in individual counts. But that, as it was put in *R v Hutchison* [1972] 1 WLR 985, 400 was to "deprive the appellant of his right to trial by jury in respect of the other alleged offences". Unless such offences were admitted, such deprivation could not, in their Lordships' view, be consistent with principle.

R v Mills [1979] 68 Cr App R 154 and *Bradshaw* were relied on as cases where the jury's verdict on one count inevitably involved a finding that the defendant had committed other offences for which he could therefore be properly punished.

However, differing with respect from that conclusion, their Lordships thought it inconsistent with principle that a defendant should be sentenced to a term of imprisonment admitted not proved by verdict. Nor, differing from the conclusion in *Bradshaw* did their Lordships understand the Criminal Justice Act 1991 to legitimate the practice of sentencing for unindicted, unadmitted offences.

Clearly, "the offence" in sections 1 and 2 of the 1991 Act meant an offence to which an offender had pleaded guilty or of which, in a trial on indictment, he had been convicted by a jury. The offences of which account could be taken when considering custody or determining the length of sentence were those clearly defined. They were not, in their Lordships' view, unadmitted offences.

Section 3(3) of the 1991 Act enabled the court to take full account of any factors, which aggravated or mitigated the offence or factors for which the offender fell to be sentenced, and account could be taken of acts done in the course of committing the offence or offences, even where such acts might have been charged separately.

In the case of violent or sexual offenders, account could be taken of the offender's personal history and background and any psychiatric evidence there might be about his personality and propensities.

Their Lordships could not, however, read section 3(3) as entitling the court to base its opinion on the commission of offences not forming part of the offence or offences for which the offender was to be sentenced and not themselves the subject of prosecution.

The conclusion was that the court reached the correct conclusion in *Clark (Raymond)* which was to be preferred to the extent that that decision was at variance with other authority.

Pro-secuting authorities would wish, in the light of the present decision, in the light of *Clark (Raymond)*, to include more counts in some indictments. That need not be unduly burdensome or render the trial unmanageable.

A convenient example was provided by the present proceedings in *R v Kidd*: the indictment contained 16 counts alleging abuse of eight different girls: most of the counts related to a period of one or two calendar years, or in some cases part of a calendar year.

The defendant was convicted of four counts only, and their Lordships did not, of course, question the jury's verdict, but had there been convictions on other counts there would have been even greater proof of the defendant's criminality to enable the court to pass an appropriate sentence, even without treating the counts as samples or specimens.

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Mr William Crowther, QC and Mr Graham Eklund for the second defendant, Mr Philip Shepherd for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS said the plaintiffs' warehouse and factory premises in Bradford were damaged by fire after the first defendant threw a match into a tin of beeswax. The plaintiffs' claims amounted in total to £1,259,212.

The first defendant lived with his mother and had no assets. His exception in section 133(4) because of the terms of the definition in section 150(1); by contrast there was no such need in relation to an order for return because that did not fall within section 150(1).

(c) Section 133 had no special or entrenched status. Section 40 was a later provision and the court's task was to read both provisions together and endeavour to give fair effect to Parliament's intention.

It was plain that Parliament regarded the order for return as something quite separate from the new sentence since the period of return was to be disregarded when deciding the length of the new sentence and that would be contrary to conventional sentencing principles.

His Lordship would dismiss the application, while expressing some regret that the court had been obliged to decide the issue in the absence of adversarial argument.

Mr Justice Buxton agreed.
Solicitors: Tremlett, Brighton.

Insurers' costs extra to policy limit

T. G. A. Chapman Ltd and Another v Christopher and Another

Before Lord Justice Phillips, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment July 8]

Insurers of a negligent defendant were liable both to indemnify the defendant to the limit of the insurance policy and to pay the plaintiffs' costs of the action in which negligence was established.

The liability to costs was independent of the policy limit and flowed from the insurers' decision that the plaintiffs' action should be defended.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing with costs an appeal by the second defendant, Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc, from an order of Judge Zuckerman, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, on May 23, 1996 that (i) the second defendant be joined in the action brought by the first plaintiff, T. G. A. Chapman Ltd, and the second plaintiff, Benson Turner Ltd, against Paul George Christopher for negligently causing a fire which burned down premises leased by the first plaintiff from the second plaintiff; (ii) that the second defendant pay the plaintiffs' costs.

Section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provides:
"(1) Subject to the provisions of this or any other enactment and to rules of court, the costs of and incidental to all proceedings in... (b) the High Court... shall be in the discretion of the court."

"(3) The court shall have full power to determine by whom and to what extent the costs are to be paid."

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mother had an insurance policy with the second defendant which covered him for the first £1 million of accidental damage to material property.

The second defendants had taken over the conduct of the plaintiffs' action against the first defendant. A defence based on contributory negligence failed and the first defendant was found liable for the whole of the plaintiffs' claims.

The second defendants had agreed to pay the plaintiffs' £1 million in full settlement of the first defendant's liability. Subsequently, the judge granted an application by the plaintiffs for a costs order against the insurers under section 51 of the 1981 Act. The judge joined the insurers as second defendants.

The judge had concluded on the authorities that a party who maintained litigation should be liable for the costs of a successful adverse party, even where the maintenance of the litigation in an attempt to avoid or reduce their liability to the plaintiffs. It was a paradigm case for the exercise of the court's discretion under section 51 to make a costs order against the second defendants.

An additional feature was that because the plaintiffs' entitlement to damages exceeded the £1 million limit of the insurance policy, they had been unable to recover interest on the damages, despite having been kept out of their money for three years. During that time the second defendants had enjoyed the use of the money. The court had no power to award interest against the second defendant to redress the balance.

Like the defendant, the plaintiffs were litigants only in name. They had been indemnified by their insurers, who conducted the litigation in the exercise of their right of subrogation. Had the plaintiffs' action failed it would have been appropriate to order them under section 51 to pay the defendant's costs.

Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave; Clyde & Co.

Document was admissible

Louis v Director of Public Prosecutions

Where the prosecution in a case of driving with excess alcohol complied with the statutory requirement for service of a doctor's certificate of analysis of a blood specimen within seven days, the defendant's waiver of strict proof of service could not render the document inadmissible.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Owen) so stated on June 9 when dismissing an appeal by case stated by Joseph Louis

against conviction by Mr Christopher Pratt, Metropolitan Magistrate at Mylebome Magistrates Court on September 19, 1996 of driving with excess alcohol.

MR JUSTICE OWEN said that service of the analyst's document under section 16 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 was a statutory requirement which could not be waived: see *Tobi v Nicholas* [1988] RTR 343.

In the present case it was discovered that there was no signature on the certificate of

service. But no submission was made that the analyst's certificate was not admissible for failure to comply with section 16.

The magistrate was not dealing with whether there had been service, but whether a certificate of service had been signed. That was entirely different from *Tobi v Nicholas*. All that was in issue was the certificate of service and not service itself.

The appellant had waived the requirement of strict proof of service and the document was formally admitted.

Order returning offender to prison was not sentence

Regina v Worthing Justices, Ex parte Varley

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill,
Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice
Buxton

[Judgment June 24]

In ordering the return to prison of an offender who committed new offences while released on licence, justices, acting under section 40 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, did not pass a sentence of imprisonment on him for the purposes of section 133 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 and accordingly the period of return they ordered was not subject to the overall temporal limits on sentence prescribed by that section.

Where, therefore, justices imposed for new offences a sentence of the maximum length permitted under section 133 and directed that it should be served consecutively to a period of return ordered under section 40 they had acted within their jurisdiction.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing an application by Roy Varley for

judicial review of Worthing Justices' decision requiring him to return to prison for 128 days in respect of his original sentence from which he had been released on licence and imposing a period of six months imprisonment to be served consecutively in respect of new offences committed during his release on licence.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Oliver Miskin for the applicant; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the applicant's argument, that if justices ordered a defendant to be returned to prison under section 40 because he had committed a new offence during his release on licence and also sentenced him to custody for the new offence, they could not sentence him for longer, taking the period of return and that of the new sentence together, than, in the sentence in question, he was ordered to serve was that which had been imposed by the first court on the first occasion.

It was in effect recasting that from which the defendant had been prematurely released. The sentence in question which he was ordered to serve was that which had been imposed by the first court on the first occasion.

days the maximum they could impose.

His Lordship said that the argument had been formulated on the basis that although the statutory provisions and case law did not clearly establish its content, the provisions were ambiguous, entitling him to the benefit of any ambiguity to a penal sentence.

The argument had rested on two propositions:
1 That when justices ordered the return of a defendant to prison they were imposing or passing a sentence of imprisonment.

That rested on section 133 and the limits it defined. However, section 150(1) provided "impose imprisonment" as "pass a sentence of imprisonment" and in ordering return the court was not in any ordinary sense passing a sentence of imprisonment.

It was in effect recasting that from which the defendant had been prematurely released. The sentence in question which he was ordered to serve was that which had been imposed by the first court on the first occasion.

As for her claim that the commissioner was vicariously liable, under section 48(1) of the Police Act 1964, now section 88 of the Police Act 1996, for the negligence of other officers under his direction and control, again, in the circumstances where the allegations were not of negligence in operational circumstances, the same considerations precluded the existence of a duty of care owed to her.

Moreover, section 40 only applied to short and long term prisoners, namely, to prisoners already sentenced to imprisonment whose sentences had not expired. It was plain that on return such prisoners were continuing to serve their old sentences.

Nor would there be need for the deeming provision in section 40(4)(a), that the period of return was to be taken as a sentence of imprisonment for the purposes of Part II of the 1991 Act, if the return were actually a sentence of imprisonment within the meaning of section 133 of the 1980 Act.

Further, section 40(4)(b) provided that the period of return must either be concurrent with or precede any new sentence: section 133 contained no such restriction. That pointed towards the existence of different regimes.

Referring to *R v Pike* [1971] 1 WLR 1321, *R v Chamberlain* [1992] 13 Cr App R (S) 525, *R v Foran* [1996] 1 Cr App R (S) 149, *R v Gentry* [1996] Crim LR 339 and *Chenney* (unreported, October 19, 1995) and *R v Harrow Justices, Ex parte Jordan* [1997] 1 WLR 84, his Lordship said that the applicant gained no help from authority.

That section 40 of the 1991 Act could not or did not or might not derogate from section 133 of the 1980 Act because there was no express derogation.

Mr Gordon had drawn a contrast with the period of imprisonment fixed for default in payment of a fine which section 133(4) provided should not be subject to the laid down limits.

There were three answers to this:

(a) If his Lordship's analysis were correct, the order for return under section 40 did not fall within section 133 because the court was not passing a sentence of imprisonment, and so there was no need for the draftsman to amend section 133 to provide any exception.

(b) There was a need for an

Senior officers owe no duty of care to WPC

W v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Senior police officers did not owe a common law duty of care to a woman constable who claimed that she suffered mental illness after their treatment of her, and their responses to her complaints, following an allegation that she was raped and battered by a fellow officer in the station house where she was living.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas) so held in a reserved judgment on

July 3 dismissing, inter alia, the appeal of W from the dismissal by Mr Justice Wright on July 7, 1996, of her appeal against the striking out of her claim as disclosing no reasonable cause of action.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that *Chelvey v Chief Constable of the Merseyside Police* [1996] AC 1228, 1239 was direct authority that the plaintiffs' allegations of negligence could not be maintained.

The internal affairs of police forces were closely regulated by statute. There was no duty of care which enabled individual officers

to claim damages for the negligent performance of those statutory duties.

As for her claim that the commissioner was vicariously liable, under section 48(1) of the Police Act 1964, now section 88 of the Police Act 1996, for the negligence of other officers under his direction and control, again, in the circumstances where the allegations were not of negligence in operational circumstances, the same considerations precluded the existence of a duty of care owed to her.

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Scots Law Report July 21 1997 Outer House

Considering purpose of legislation

South Lanarkshire Council v Secretary of State for Scotland

Before Lord Cameron of Lochbroom

[Judgment April 30]

In considering a circular issued by the Secretary of State for Scotland to local authorities providing guidance on the conduct of compulsory competitive tendering, it was necessary to consider the purpose of the legislation and what it provided for.

The guidelines were framed in general terms and necessarily so. They provided signposts to local authorities as to how they would conduct themselves for the purposes of the 1980 Act or the 1988 Act. Within that context the phrases used were wholly intelligible.

Nor did his Lordship consider that the statements in the guidance unreasonably fettered the discretion of a local authority. Accordingly, the guidance contained in the circular was not beyond the powers of the secretary of state.

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held dismissing a petition at the Council for South Lanarkshire for judicial review of the issue by the secretary of state of Circular 6/96 entitled *Guidance on the Conduct of Compulsory Competitive Tendering*.

Mr Michael Jones, QC and Miss Jane Patterson for the petitioners; Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr Robert McCreadie for the respondent.

LORD CAMERON said that the guidance bore to be issued under the Local Government (Direct Service Organisations) (Compensation) Regulations (SI 1993 No 849), which in turn had been made under section 9 of the Local Government Act 1992. The pe-

titioners sought declarator that parts of paragraph 8 and all of paragraph 15 were ultra vires, null and of no effect.

Three grounds of challenge had been presented:
The first was that the effect of section 9 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 and section 6 of the Local Government Act 1988 was to prohibit a local authority from carrying out certain work unless the authority first complied with certain conditions.

Further, in terms of the 1988 Act, if it appeared to the secretary of state that the authority had carried out any work where any of the conditions had not been fulfilled, he might impose certain sanctions.

That did two things. The first was to fetter the discretion of a local authority when organising its functions, to determine that in any particular case it was unnecessary to follow the guidance.

The second was that the effect and plain meaning of paragraph 15 was to remove the element of discretion given to the respondent in reaching a determination as to whether there had or had not been a contravention of any condition.

By issuing the guidance, the argument ran, the secretary of state had gone beyond the powers granted to him by Parliament under section 9(3) of the 1982 Act.

His Lordship considered that it was necessary to consider the purpose of the legislation and what it provided for when looking to the meaning to be given to paragraph 15. The words were in very wide terms and could extend to any consideration of what an authority had done before publication of the notices required by section 7 of the 1988 Act.

The competition process came into being immediately upon the decision of the authority proposing to carry out the work of the designated kind. Parliament had

provided that the respondent had power by regulation to define conduct as competitive and anti-competitive in terms of section 9 of the 1992 Act.

In the same section Parliament had empowered the respondent to issue guidance as to how anti-competitive conduct was to be avoided. Paragraph 15 had to be read in the context of the whole document.

Nor did his Lordship consider that the statements in the guidance unreasonably fettered the discretion of a local authority. In preparing itself for compulsory competitive tendering no reasonable local authority could fail to have apprised itself of the manner in which the market place into which it was about to enter operated.

The guidance did not specify when steps to that end had to be taken other than that they would precede the entry into the tendering process itself. It was for the local authority to satisfy itself in the first place that it had sufficient information and knowledge to ensure that the competition process would be and would remain truly open to contractors throughout.

The second submission had been that the guidance required a local authority to perform a number of positive acts which having regard to the primary legislation Parliament had not intended authorities to perform.

Parliament had not authorised any requirement that positive steps should be taken by a local authority for the avoidance of anti-competitive conduct. That was also consistent with the statutory scheme set out and delineated in section 7.

In his Lordship's opinion that submission was also misconceived. The condition went further, than the first step and encompassed the decision-taking

process throughout starting from the moment when a proposal that the work be carried out was agreed by the authority to be acted upon.

In going out to tender the authority was not only required to identify the area of work to be put out to competitive tendering. It was also to package it according to how the market in such an area of work was organised and operated.

In the condition complained of the requirement was that the local authority had to act throughout to prevent restriction, distortion or prevention of competition.

The effect of the condition was that where an authority decided to carry out the work itself and was then challenged by the respondent, it was required to negate any allegation of anti-competitive behaviour.

Finally, it had been submitted that parts of the guidance complained of were unintelligible to the intended reader. Parliament could not have intended to empower the respondent to give such guidance which was therefore irrational.

The phrases involved, it had been said, subjective values, yet failure to comply with such guidance could be followed by the imposition of sanctions against the local authority.

His Lordship said such criticisms were unjustified. The guidelines were framed in general terms and necessarily so. They provided signposts to local authorities as to how they would conduct themselves for the purposes of the 1980 Act or the 1988 Act. Within that context the phrases used were wholly intelligible.

For all those reasons the prayer of the petition would be refused.

Law agents: Simpson & Marwick, W.S. Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

KICK OFF

ITF starts Monday July 28th.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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[illegible]

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: Porvair. Finals: Crest Packaging, Ennex International, PSIT, Sketchley, Uno.

TOMORROW
Interims: Waste Management, Shari Group, St Modwen Properties, SmithKline Beecham. Finals: Barbour Index, Copyright Promotions, GGT Group, H&C Furnishings, Mentmore Abbey, Menzies-Swain Group, John Menzies, Mite Group, Oglesby & Butler, Stagecoach, WF Electrical. RICS quarterly house price survey.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Bullough, Masthead Insurance, Reuters, Spargo. Finals: Matthew Clark, Pace Micro Technology, Economic statistics: UK retail sales (June).

THURSDAY
Interims: Cookson, ICI, Total Office. Finals: Banks (SC), Bolton, Delyn, Euclidian, Eve. Economic statistics: UK global trade balance (May), UK non-EU trade balance (June), harmonised Consumer Prices Index (June), CBI quarterly industrial trends.

FRIDAY
Interims: Baring Tribune, Lex Service, Economic statistics: UK preliminary GDP (2Q).

SUNDAY

The Sunday Times: Buy Anglo-Irish Bank Corporation, Menzies-Swain, Border Television, Laird, Jastin. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Kinick, Jastin, DCS Group, Intrum-Kastina, The Observer. Buy HP Bulmer, Sell Somerfield. Mail on Sunday: Buy Wilson Connolly, Express on Sunday: Buy FirstBus, Biocompatibles International, Proteus International, Lime-light, Independent on Sunday: Buy Burnside Castrol.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL CLARK

Strong pound likely to hit Reuters



Peter Job, Reuters chief executive, can expect questions on the distribution of excess cash

REUTERS: The strong pound is expected to make a sizeable dent in earnings when the international news agency and financial information specialist unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £342 million with earnings per share flat at 14.7p. Analysts say that the impact of the pound will remain a problem for the rest of the year and it looks increasingly likely that they will be forced to downgrade their year-end numbers. It is unlikely that the group will produce any earnings growth in the current year. Almost 40 per cent of profits are derived from Europe and the current strength of the pound against the mark makes the group especially vulnerable. Last year Reuters, whose chief executive is Peter Job, made pre-tax profits of £701 million with a final figure of £733 million currently pencilled in. No doubt the City will want to tax the group on how it intends to distribute excess cash, which at the last count stood at £1.2 billion net, to shareholders. NatWest is of the opinion it will opt for a straightforward share buyback costing about £700 million in order to enhance earnings. The brokers will also want an update on its 3000 computerised financial information system. During the first quarter 18,000 orders were taken with 5,000 installations. The Dealing 2000 system should have benefited from buoyant foreign exchange markets. In spite of the pressure on earnings, shareholders should see the payout grow by 13 per cent from 2.75p net to 3.1p.

bulk chemicals into the consumer end of the market with the recent purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals operation for £4 billion. The strong pound will have made life difficult for all parts of its export business, while serving to increase competition back home. The paint operation is likely to reveal a modest increase on last year with volumes up and margins improving on the back of lower raw material costs. This will go some way to offsetting the stronger pound. But rising costs will have taken a toll in the materials division in spite of improved volumes. Giving the downturn in profitability, the interim payout is likely to be pegged at 12.5p.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: Once again, as in the first quarter, currency factors will play a large part in the outcome for the first six months. The group, reporting tomorrow, will show a modest increase in pre-tax profits for the second quarter of about 3 per cent, with most brokers looking for around £32 million compared with £342 million last time. Brokers say currency fluctuations will have a negative impact on earnings per share, which are likely to have grown by 1 per cent to 8.4p. They also believe that alterations made to its DPS acquisition could see a small reduction in pharmaceutical sales, although sales excluding DPS could be up as much as 12 per cent. Sales of new drugs, such as

Hycamtin, Requip, Kytril and Famvir, in which the group is placing much faith, should chip in with £125 million of sales. Attempts by smokers to give up the deadly weed will have boosted sales of Nicorette and Nicoderm, pushing up overall sales of the healthcare division to £611 million. The payout is likely to be 3.9p against 3.6p last time.

WASTE MANAGEMENT: At first glance half-year figures tomorrow are likely to prove disappointing. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at about £71.6 million, down on last year's figure of £75.3 million. Earnings will also be down from 12.3p to around 10p. The absence of a contribution from Wessex Water and adverse

currency factors will depress the overall outcome. But after taking into account that Wessex contributed £14 million last time, the overall performance of the group's other operations will prove encouraging. In June WMI disposed of its loss-making French operations — a move that was warmly welcomed by the City. The one dull spot remains the price levels of reclaimed waste paper. Once again there will be no payout.

LEX SERVICE GROUP: It is likely to have been a struggle in the first half as interim figures on Friday will reveal. Comparisons will have been made difficult by the closure of certain dealerships last year. Overall, pre-tax profits are expected to have risen from £28.7 million to almost £30 million, powered by continued growth in the new-car market and steady prices in the used-car market. This trend should continue for at least the next year.

Earnings should show a modest increase of 1p, to 18p. The group's investment in Synnex Technology, the Taiwan-based electronics group, has produced breathtaking returns, with the recent sale of 11 million shares raising £35 million. NatWest Securities estimates that the remainder of the stake is worth £105 million, compared with a book value of just £9 million.

The UK truck market remains a growing source of concern and underlying growth is likely to remain minimal.

Shareholders can expect a 6 per cent increase in the payout to almost 7p, although recent speculation suggests that a special payout to shareholders remains on the cards.

H&C FURNISHINGS: A leap in pre-tax profits from just £400,000 to £8 million is on the cards when full-year figures are unveiled tomorrow. The figures will be boosted by a first full contribution from Cantors and nine months of Harveys. The figure will be struck before exceptional costs of £6.5 million relating to the closure of a number of stores. Sales will be sharply ahead but this will fail to be reflected in margins, which will come under further pressure. The dividend is doubled to 10p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Rate rise fever still mounting

CITY concern about a fourth consecutive interest rate rise will reach fever pitch this week as the vital retail sales and second-quarter GDP data add real substance to the debate about the speed of demand growth.

The retail sales figures for May pointed to boom conditions and economists believe that anything less than a substantial slowdown will prompt the Bank to increase rates by another quarter point next month.

But the evidence for the strength of high street spending in June is mixed, with company sales figures pointing to a windfall payout consumer spending spree while other indicators have hinted that the wet weather may have helped to slow overall growth.

MMS International, the economics consultancy, is predicting that retail sales growth will show a decrease — from 5.3 per cent in May to 4.1 per cent in June — when the data is published on Wednesday.

The second quarter GDP figures, which are due to be published on Friday, are expected to show continued above-trend economic growth. But the manufacturing production figures have been weak over the past three months and some economists believe that overall growth will be considerably less exciting than expected.

MMS, however, predicts that quarterly GDP will show a rise of 1 per cent, taking the annual growth rate from 3.1 per cent to 3.5 per cent — a figure likely to be regarded by the Bank as too strong for comfort.

The strong pound will return to the spotlight when the latest trade figures are published on Thursday. Economists believe that exporters are still taking the pain through a cut in profit margins and the trade gap is not expected to have widened markedly, despite another surge in the value of sterling during the period covered by the data.

MMS forecasts the whole-world trade gap for June will close from a deficit of £961 million to £810 million, while the non-EU deficit for June will widen only slightly to £615 million.

The main event abroad this week is Alan Greenspan's appearance before the Senate Banking Committee on Wednesday.

US interest rate worries have returned to the market in the past few days and analysts will be watching the chairman of the Federal Reserve bank's Humphrey-Hawkins testimonial closely for clues as to when the next rate increase will be made.

The Bundesbank is also meeting on Thursday, but with most German economic indicators remaining weak, there is little market expectation of a rise in interest rates.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Bank's reform under fire from think-tank

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN'S sweeping reforms of monetary and regulatory policy are being criticised by a report from a right-leaning think-tank. The report, which is published in the Sunday Telegraph, says that the reforms are "a complex mixture of history and national attitudes" as the institutional framework. The report criticises Mr Brown for limiting the impact of his monetary policy reforms by granting only operational independence. It claims that

the markets will continue to believe that the reforms are being overturned, while the decision to build an anti-inflationary "over-kill" measure into the framework is likely to be "destructive of any hope of acquiring credibility quickly". Professor Gowland welcomes the thrust of the move towards creating a single financial services regulator, arguing it will end the problems created by competing regulators. But he adds that under the existing proposals financial regulation will not be fully unified with the Building Societies Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry continuing to play an important role.



Brown: policies attacked

He claims that yet another shake-up in the regulatory system will create renewed uncertainty for the sector, while the current proposals fail to address the problem of separate regulatory systems across the European Union. Professor Gowland said: "None of Mr Brown's changes is obviously for the better, saving one which is not fully worked out."

Tourist trap hopes for former jail

BY CHRIS AYLES

AN UNDERGROUND prison in central London is to be expanded, refurbished and turned into a tourist destination and corporate hospitality venue, thanks to a listing on Ofex, the share trading facility, that has raised £20,000. The House of Detention, owned by GPA Group, is expected to earn money from admission fees, catering, entertainment and merchandising. The company also expects location fees from film, television and photographic shoots. During its history, the Clerkenwell prison held deportees to America and Australia, and some of the prisoners' records are still available.

It is hoped that these records will be made available over the Internet so that family histories can be traced. GPA also hopes that visits to the prison can be integrated into the teaching of the Victorian penal system in local schools. The directors hope to attract up to 88,000 visitors a year by 2000.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6743 (-0.0202)
German mark 2.9990 (+0.0008)
Exchange index 104.8 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 3105.7 (+53.0)
FTSE 100 4877.2 (+77.7)
New York Dow Jones 7890.46 (-31.36)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20249.32 (+373.83)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.57	2.19
Austria Sch	22.07	20.41
Belgium Ft	65.03	69.07
Canada \$	2.424	2.298
Cyprus Cyp£	0.923	0.851
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.10
Finland Mkk	9.40	8.85
France Fr	10.58	9.80
Germany Dm	3.16	2.92
Hong Kong \$	4.07	4.58
Greece Dr	13.75	12.55
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Ft	1.17	1.06
Israel Shk	8.23	5.59
Italy Lit	208.23	205.70
Japan Yen	0.688	0.629
Netherlands Gld	3.562	3.267
New Zealand \$	2.73	2.49
Norway Kr	12.99	12.05
Portugal Esc	515.03	285.00
S Africa Rd	9.35	7.39
Spain Pta	283.70	245.00
Sweden Kr	13.80	12.70
Switzerland Fr	2.62	2.40
Turkey Lira	288857	248679
USA \$	1.778	1.635

More companies fail but trend is slowing

BY OUR CITY STAFF

COMPANIES going into receivership grew by 5 per cent in the first six months of this year, according to KPMG, the accountants. A report published yesterday showed there were 656 receiverships between January 1 and June 30, compared with 622 in the preceding six months. However, compared with the first six months of 1996 numbers actually fell by 14 per cent.

The exception to the downward first-half decrease was the North West where there was an increase from 82 to 92. Of the 656 national receiverships, 295 were recorded in southeast England.

A breakdown of the quarter to June 30 showed manufac-

turing companies fared worst, with 29 per cent of all failures, although this was an improvement over the first quarter's 33 per cent. The finance and business services sector recorded the largest increase, from 10 per cent to 17 per cent of failures. Mike Wheeler, KPMG's head of corporate recovery, said: "Despite the increase in receiverships during the first three months of 1997, the underlying trend is still clearly downwards. Although prospects remain encouraging for companies close to the consumer end of the supply chain, there is likely to be an increasing failure rate among those companies... that rely on export markets."

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A black and white photograph showing a person from the chest up, wearing a dark coat and a hat. They are standing in front of a wall. On the wall, there is a sign that reads "CONFERENCE PHOTO" in large, bold letters, and below it, in smaller letters, "FOR THE Conference". The person is looking towards the camera. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

Brussels set for trade row over Boeing merger deal

By Oliver August

A FULL-SCALE transatlantic trade row over the \$13.3 billion (£8 billion) merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas seems inevitable if Boeing does not offer further concessions within 24 hours.

The European Commission will give its official verdict on Wednesday, after hearing a recommendation from a panel of experts to block the merger because it would give Boeing monopoly status in the civil aircraft market. A draft decision to impose heavy fines on the US company has been circulating in Brussels.

Karel Van Miert, the competition commissioner, has been fiercely opposed to the merger from the start, needs a simple majority for the draft decision to be approved.

A Commission spokesman said Boeing had been asked to make further concessions last week but failed to respond. A last-minute agreement was still possible, although unlikely, he added.

During negotiations the Commission raised competition worries with Boeing, based on a fear that Boeing will subsidise its civil aircraft programmes with US Government funds meant for McDonnell Douglas's military aircraft research. This would put Airbus, Boeing's only civil

aviation rival, at a competitive disadvantage. Brussels also objects to Boeing absorbing McDonnell Douglas's spare parts and maintenance work, which would further extend Boeing's customer list, thereby increasing its market dominance.

A third fear concerns Boeing's exclusive supplier deals with three major American airlines, Continental, Delta and American Airlines. The Commission and Airbus, a European consortium that includes British Aerospace, have protested that the agreements are anti-competitive.

Boeing has offered concessions on two of these issues. It suggested a reduction of the exclusivity deals from 20 years to 13 years and a pledge not to conclude any more such deals over the next ten years.

Boeing also offered to report regularly to the EU on any cross-subsidies from McDonnell-Douglas's military business to its own civilian operations. But the concession package was rejected by the EU and the French and German Governments.

Britain has taken a back seat in the dispute. The UK Government is eager to protect the relationship with Brussels and Washington that Tony Blair recently developed.



Bernie Ecclestone, right, puts over the case for the flotation of Formula One Holdings — now back on course — with Jean Todt, the Ferrari team boss

Two salaries for Cortecs chairman

By Paul Durman

THE chairman of Cortecs International, the innovative Australian biomedical technology firm, is to enjoy two salaries: one for his role as chairman of the company, and another for his role as a director of the company.

The complex formula governing the share options available to Glen Travers is set out in a difficult-to-follow sentence that is 270 words long. This forms part of the listing particulars for Cortecs plc. This is a new company intended to take over Cortecs International via a court-backed scheme. At the

same time, Cortecs will move its main share listing from Australia to the UK. Most of Cortecs's business and staff are in the UK.

The company, which develops oral forms of existing drugs, is valued at about £250 million. The number of options Mr Travers receives will depend on the Cortecs share price. The listing particulars suggest that he may be able to receive the maximum award of 1.1 million or more options if, in 2000, the share price is above 25p. Although the sickly state of the biotech sector

has pushed Cortecs back to 172p, it has previously traded at well above 25p. And if its hopes for oral insulin and Macrolonin, an osteoporosis drug, bear fruit, it should easily exceed this level.

The option deal is part of a two-year service agreement that also pays Mr Travers £244,000 a year. This is on top of another two-year salary contract, paying US\$75,510 (£45,000) with a possible annual bonus of \$338,220.

Mr Travers defended his contracts, saying they were "virtually identical" to existing

arrangements, which were "well understood by shareholders". He said he had not always received options under similar deals in the past.

Michael Flynn, Cortecs' president and senior scientist, may also receive a million options under a recent amendment to his contract, which pays £170,000 and an annual bonus of up to £30,000.

One leading UK shareholder is uneasy about Mr Travers's pay package. A spokesman suggested that the option performance criteria did not look particularly demanding.

Formula One float 'on track'

ADVISERS to Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Holdings insisted yesterday that the planned share offer was on track, in spite of reports that SBC Warburg was preparing an alternative proposal for the motor racing industry. (Jon Ashworth writes.) SBC denied that it was working on the flotation of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), which owns the Formula One name and television rights. Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, is seeking to sell Formula One Holdings in an international share issue.

Philips confining media to PolyGram

Philips is gradually winding down its media activities, but leaving its PolyGram stake untouched. Cor Boonstra, its chairman, said in an interview with NRC Handelsblad, the Dutch daily, that he thought the electronics group was ill-equipped for the fast-moving media sector.

The one exception is its 75 per cent stake in RolyGram, the music and entertainment group that Mr Boonstra is keen to expand. He admitted that the sector offered interesting possibilities, but said that Philips was unable to take full advantage of them. "We are much better at making products than selling services. The media activities have cost us quite a lot of money," he said.

Since taking over as chairman last October, Mr Boonstra has announced his intention to rid the company of what he has called "the bleeders" — the underperforming and non-core businesses.

Greenall sale

Greenalls, the inn group, is hoping to raise £50 million for expansion by selling its 475 strong chain of off-licenses. The outlets, which trade under a variety of names, made operating profits of £5.6 million last year.

BMW eyes R-R

BMW, which has set new targets to improve return on sales at its BMW and Rover plants in the UK, is reportedly interested in a direct stake in Rolls-Royce Motors if and when Vickers becomes more willing to sell.

Germany top as takeover target

By Our City Staff

GERMAN companies have overtaken British businesses as the most attractive takeover targets in the European Union by overseas corporate investors, a report said yesterday. KPMG Corporate Finance said that in the first six months of the year, \$14.7 billion (£8.8 billion) of foreign corporate investment flowed into Germany. That represented a six-fold rise on the \$2.2 billion invested there in last year's first half.

By contrast, acquisitions by international companies in the UK fell by 40 per cent from \$19.8 billion to \$11.6 billion — the first fall for more than three years. It is the first time since the KPMG Corporate Finance survey started in 1988 that Germany has attracted greater inward corporate investment than Britain.

Corporate Finance's UK head of mergers and acquisitions, said: "The UK may be losing some of its pulling power as a magnet for inward investments into Europe. Some international companies may have been deterred from buying here by the strong pound and Britain's approach to the ERM. That may account for the interest in other European countries such as Germany."

The level of acquisitions and strategic investments by British companies abroad also fell in the first half, falling to \$13.5 billion from \$17.9 billion in the corresponding period last year. The report added that for the first time for several years, the UK lost its position as Europe's biggest international investor to the Swiss, whose businesses invested \$17 billion dollars outside their country in the first six months.

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He never lost that golden touch

Sir James Goldsmith was a man who settled simply for wealth, says Graham Searjeant

Jim Slater, the expert investor and 1970s tycoon, once famously made the distinction between thing-makers and money-makers. Like Mr Slater, Sir James Goldsmith, who died over the weekend, came in the latter category. That is perhaps why the billionaire's death has surprisingly modest business implications, even though he died comparatively young.

Sir James himself became, and probably always was, far more significant as an individual than any of his business activities. By contrast, imagine the turmoil that would be created if God forbid, Bill Gates was prematurely removed from Microsoft. The dramatic disappearance of Robert Maxwell would have caused ructions in Maxwell Communications Corporation and his many other interests even if he had not gambled and lost group assets and pension fund money.

Like Lord Hanson and White, Sir James was a youthful playboy who originally devoted his enthusiasm to business to make sure he could finance the expensive lifestyle he wanted for himself and his family. In the early years, that enthusiasm brought creative business deals, such as a part in the launch of Mathercare and development of health foods. But Sir James was always more interested in cashing in his chips while the going

was good and moving on to the next deal. The younger James Goldsmith became the poshest of a group of likely lads trying to build up empires on the booming London Stock Exchange in the later 1960s and early 1970s, many of whom came to grief in the bear market of 1974-75. Some of his companies needed to shuffle assets about in the early years and never had as much credibility as, for instance, Lord Hanson. Sir James's ingrained suspicion of the press grew from this period, when he pioneered the instant legal threat in face of criticism, a technique later to be perfected by Mr Maxwell.

In the end, Sir James did accumulate a substantial organisation in Britain. Cavenham Foods never quite became the mighty power its friends (and some enemies) claimed, but was certainly more important than implied by its critics' dismissive claim that it was the world's largest manufacturer of liqueur chocolates. Had Sir James been patient, as Lord Hanson and White had to be, he might have built Cavenham into a big power in the food industry. He was probably wise not to

try. Dominating personalities such as his, or that of Alan Sugar, are rarely suited to the accountable public company constantly beholden to teenage scribblers in the City.

By cashing in and moving operations to the harder and less village world of American business, he was able to transform wealth into super-wealth. Sir James became a practical apostle of "down-sizing" and a predator on venerable corporations. This combination often resulted either in him being bought off or buying the business, slashing costs and and chopping it up. You have to be thick-skinned and self-confident to do this.

In 1987, Sir James augmented his reputation as a financier and speculator in the league of George Soros, scourge of the European exchange-rate mechanism, by cashing in his gains before the 1987 crash.

Unfortunately, Sir James subsequently made big investments in gold, initially by swapping forestry assets for the Hanson group's inherited stake in Newmont Mining. Gold proved a

poor investment as the stock markets recovered and later soared. The billionaires' club, replete with figures such as Australia's Kerry Packer, is full of individuals who put together deals, invest and trade rather than running businesses. As Sir James's foray into gold showed, boldness is not always rewarded. Such individuals therefore need inexhaustible self-confidence, often acquired by being born with a silver spoon in their mouths.

Humbler investors would probably find it no harder than Sir James or Mr Packer to spot the moments when, as today, stock and share markets have run ahead of economic reality and are resting on nothing but sentiment. It is relatively easy for the cautious to get out to cash up, though most tend to do so too soon and to miss the last profitable frenzy of a bull market.

Deciding when to plunge cash back into assets is far harder, even for investment professionals. Almost by definition, things look black at the optimum buying moment. As Sir James said, it is too late once you can see the handwagon rolling. Most investors who try to cash in at high prices and buy at low prices tend to sell too early and buy too late. Over the long haul, they are usually better off to stick with high quality investments and take the knocks.

Why the windfall tax may not be a 'one-off'

It's a bad tax, the bill follows, and the utilities could be hit again and again, says Dieter Helm

Gordon Brown's "one-off" windfall tax on the privatised utilities provided a much-needed boost to government finances in general and the Welfare-to-Work programme in particular. The Chancellor's Budget move followed a well-worn path of *ad hoc* taxation that the Conservatives had fostered — first on banks, then on the utilities through Kenneth Clarke's changes to the regime for the treatment of investment in corporation tax.

The windfall tax was not, however, a good tax, either as a method of financing public expenditure, or as a solution to regulatory failures. Relying on private companies to raise money for public expenditure is bound to be more expensive than direct government borrowing costs, and much less honest than direct taxes.

To the extent that the "problem" has been tax regulation, the solution is to reform the regulatory regime, not to introduce retrospective taxation. The former would reduce regulatory consistency and hence the very high cost of capital to UK utilities; the latter undermines efficiency incentives, which Mr Brown wants to promote. Sadly, Margaret Thatcher's review of regulation, which the President of the Board of Trade announced days before the Budget, did not suggest the appropriate path would be followed.

The real lesson of the Government's use of private utility borrowing — what might be



The pickings look good, but the real costs of the windfall tax may not be felt until largely after the next election

called the private sector borrowing requirement — is that it can be used again and again. Utilities provide a politically attractive base. By financing public expenditure through private borrowing, the public gets welfare goodies without apparent cost. Even where utility prices have to go up to pay the inevitable bill, utility bosses get the blame.

Mr Brown may be strictly correct in saying that the windfall tax will be "one-off".

He is also being disingenuous. The Conservatives offloaded a major environmental clean-up programme onto customers of the water companies, thereby "privatising" public expenditure that would otherwise have been paid for by the Exchequer. Water company bosses, not politicians, suffered public hostility. Labour looks set to follow the Tory lead.

The options for shifting obligations onto utilities and

taxing customers of the electricity, water, gas and telecoms industries are vast. BT could wire up the schools and continue to look after the poorer and more vulnerable customers. The electricity companies could pay for energy efficiency audits and improvements and finance the Energy Savings Trust. The water companies will almost certainly continue to provide major financing for the environmental programme. More generally, utilities could take on the young unemployed they have just paid for by the windfall tax.

Already Labour is considering adding more duties and responsibilities on economic regulators to take more account of sustainability and the interests of the poor. No doubt regional development will follow.

Much of this transfer of public expenditure to private utility will be dressed up in the rhetoric of "corporate responsibility", "stakeholders" and "model utilities". The real issue is not so much whether utilities provide the tax base (as they will), but at what cost and to whom. Labour must be tempted to use the discretion in the current regulatory regime to disguise this spending, rather than explicitly account for the costs and display

prominently on customers' bills the scale of these further utility taxes.

That was the mistake the Conservatives made in putting VAT on domestic electricity and gas. It was all too visible. The extra political benefit of the indirect approach is the seductive idea that there may be more "free lunches". If profits turn out to be high again, shareholders could face disguised taxation. Investors will, however, take note of the risks and demand higher returns.

Sadly for Mr Brown and for utilities' customers, there are no free lunches. The windfall tax will have an impact on bills (because, in its absence, the borrowing could have been used to lower bills). The private sector borrowing requirement is more expensive than public borrowing, and uncertainty about retrospective raids on shareholder funds can only lead to businesses being less efficient and having a high cost of capital. The political reality is that the true costs of the windfall tax will not be felt until after the utilities' next price reviews and therefore largely after the next general election.

□ The author is a Fellow of New College Oxford and Director of the Oxford Economic Research Associates Limited

Which bank sends flowers to new home owners?



Natwest Bank plc, 11 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3BP

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

STUFATA

(c) Some kind of stew. Altered from Italian *stufato* to stew. Smollett: "He taught me to cook several outlandish delicacies, such as... stufatas."

SOLVY

(d) To be dirty. Related to older Flemish *solvien* to soil. "And his was solvy to scum."

SLASORY

(b) Tending to persuade, to be persuasive. From the Latin *suasoria*. H. N. Coleridge, *Sir Months in the West Indies*, 1826: "A singularly eloquent preacher in the pathetic and suatory style."

SPRUNK

(a) A display of wealth or self-importance. From the Dutch *prunk* vain personal adornment or *hellol* celebrity showing off. "With fryers and monks, with their fine sprunks, I make my chiefest prey."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxe1 dxe2 2 Qe5+ Kc7 3 Nxb6+ Kb7 4 Qxb8 cxb8 5 Qd8 and White wins

TELEVISION CHOICE

An artistic centenary

Mr Tate's Gallery

BBC2, 7.40pm

The centenary of the Tate Gallery is marked by a documentary which judiciously mixes history, current affairs and a peek into the future. There is much to say under all three headings, for the Tate has seldom failed to make the headlines thus far and the Bankside Power Station conversion should make the next few years equally newsworthy. It has not always been good news. As Richard Cork of *The Times* points out, for a gallery charged with holding the premier British collection of modern art the Tate has often been excessively philistine. But when it has embraced innovation, as with Carl Andre's famous bricks, it has been accused of hooliganism. The public, wars, floods and a director, Sir John Rothenstein, who was once publicly assaulted by a furious collector, also punctuate the story.

Tiger Bay

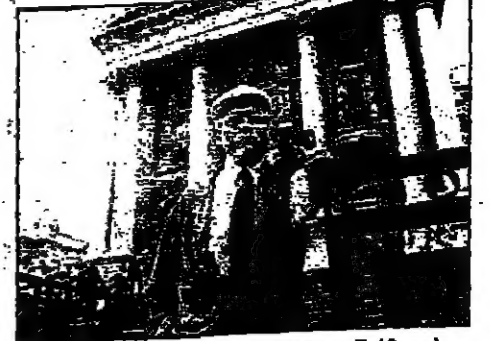
BBC1, 8.30pm

It seems that BBC Wales is determined to work its way through the past. Having given us, in *Druids' Gold*, a Welsh western, it now comes up with what looks like a Cardiff-based version of *EastEnders*. Although *Tiger Bay* is not running three times a week, all the other essential soap opera ingredients are there: a large cast with no clear character, a raft of overlapping storylines and an emphasis on private lives. The *EastEnders* parallel is reinforced by the choice of social milieu. Like Albert Square, this fictitious *Tiger Bay* is mostly peopled by ordinary folk leading dull and sometimes dodgy lives. As in *EastEnders* there is not a lot of humour. Programme one sees a 40-year-old man, seducing a girl of 16, trouble for a new father from his previous family and the humiliation of a sharp young lawyer.

All Mod Cons

BBC2, 9.30pm

An entertaining series, rich in social observation, charts the history of home improvement in Britain over the past 50 years. The key is do-it-yourself, a phrase hardly known before the early 1950s. Before the Second World War, most people lived in rented accommodation and left things to the landlord.



Hockey at the Tate (BBC2, 7.40pm)

Among the middle classes, as some of them remember, there was a stigma to doing their own decorating. What would the neighbours think? The DIY craze was born of wartime shortages and rising labour costs. It was helped by new products such as Formica and encouraged by advertisers showing happy young couples brightening up their houses. Barry Bucknell, the BBC's DIY expert, got a bigger posting than the stars of *Coronation Street*, though his wife recalls that he was not as handy at home as he was on the screen.

Preston Front

BBC1, 10.00pm

Even the most devoted followers of Tim Firth's comic drama of Territorial Army friends in the north may be hard pushed to remember why Hodge is called Hodge when his real name is quite different. But to enjoy *Preston Front* it is sufficient to take such quirkiness as read. This is the third series and, once again, Firth has written every episode. Like the show or not, and many do, there is no doubting its personal stamp. Firth's forte is character and incident rather than big plotting, all infused with a dry northern humour. Colin Buchanan, seen recently as the younger half of *Dad's Army*, returns as Hodge in a mostly unchanged team. Hodge's accident-stricken attempts to treat his secret daughter to a day out are at the centre of tonight's up-to-standard scenario. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

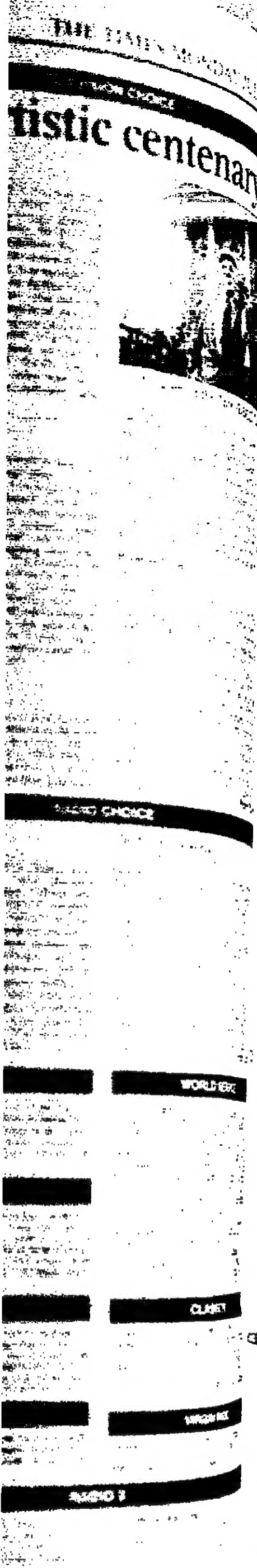
Talking Sleep

Radio 2, times vary

Strategically embedded in today's Kate Adie, Debbie Thorne, John Dunn and Richard Allison shows at 11.30am, 1.30pm, 5.05pm and 7.05pm respectively, are three-minute snippets aimed at those of us who can't remember ever having had a stress-free night's sleep in our lives. We're lucky, though, if we've been spared the horrors suffered by one contributor. In her nightmares, she's the target for missiles such as drains, from the past, rice, Russian dolls and playing cards. Then there's the man who can't stand feeling hot in bed. He emulates the penguin which, when over-heated, swims away from the sun with one wing out of the water. The man keeps his cool by sticking one foot out of bed.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 8.00am Simon Mayo 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow 12.00pm Newsweek 12.45pm John Peel 1.30pm Noddy 2.00pm John Peel 3.00pm News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00pm News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00pm News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00pm News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00pm News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00pm News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00pm News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00pm News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00pm News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00pm News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00pm News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00pm News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00pm News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00pm News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00pm News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm 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The past: a foreign country we like to visit

Slightly unexpectedly, it was Jimmy Nail who put his finger on it. There was, he thought, "a sense of longing for times past and things gone". He Dick Clement and Jan La Frenais, who were the subjects of last night's *Omibus*. Whatever happened to Clement and La Frenais (BBC), but Nail could just as easily have been talking about the whole weekend. It was filled with images of times past and things gone — and that's ignoring the repeat of that wonderful fiction of shared experience, *Our Friends in the North*.

How much longing you actually did was a personal matter. I managed a fair bit during *Omibus*, almost none as Michael Foot looked back on the winter of discontent and quite a lot as Michael Parkinson plundered his own archive to say farewell to James Stewart and Robert Mitchum.

Like nostalgia, Clement and La Frenais ain't what they used to be. In halcyon days of comic yore, the pair had no sooner met in a Notting Hill pub than they were raffling off *The Likely Lads*, its superlative sequel *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?* and the incomparable *Porridge*. Nowadays, however, they live in Los Angeles doing uncredited rewrites of other people's screenplays.

What Louis Hemon's enjoyable and affectionate film never really had the heart to address was whether this was a good thing. Clement went through the motions, maintaining that he found "the balance between the original work and the rewriting very stimulating". And so doubt very lucrative too. But the unanswered question remained: was writing cheesy dialogue for Sean Connery a proper job for one of the finest writing teams in British television history? I thought not, but every-

body contributing to this semi-tribute either disagreed or was too polite to say so.

Hemon's film was at its best when it looked back to both incarnations of *The Likely Lads*, both of which were, in turn, firmly rooted in the past. As Clement explained: "Even when Bob and Terry were 22, they were nostalgic about being 15". But it was the clips from the later series — particularly one in which the pair toured the wrecked and unrecognisable streets of their youth — that served as a reminder of just how cleverly Clement and La Frenais had harnessed this longing for times past and things gone. That's why I've always thought *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?* is wasted on anybody under 35.

Rodney Bewes pitched up to recall, loyally, how they "never had to change a comma", while

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Brigit Forsyth discussing the damage done by being dubbed "the dreaded Thelma", by Clive James. But of James Bolam, for whom Clement and La Frenais created the wonderfully comic/tragic character of Terry, there was no sign. On this, all nights, I hope he had a good excuse.

Michael Foot turned up for his big night which, given the aura of absent-mindedness and disorgan-

isation that normally surrounds him, was fairly remarkable. But there he was, slumped in the dark as Michael Cockerell played back key moments from his long and turbulent life on a bank of television screens.

Mostly he liked what he saw in Labour's Old Romantic, a Film Portrait of Michael Foot (BBC2, Saturday). "He's not so bad, is he?" he said watching a typically rub-thumping clip of himself from 1942: "He's got a good future in front of him."

But so had somebody else. Cockerell had unearthed film of Foot, then Labour leader, endorsing Tony Blair at the 1983 election. "He's going to have a very big future in British politics," said Foot at the time. "What a prophetic word perfect," he chuckled now, playfully pointing out that Blair had joined the Labour Party when he was leader. "And nobody who joined the party when I was leader

could be accused of being a careerist."

By this time it was pretty clear that what Cockerell was engaged in might be described as the acceptable face of political revisionism, gently shifting Foot's place in history away from that of accident-prone author of the longest suicide note in history to that of man of letters and fiercely held but apparently flexible left-wing ideals. Foot, you see, claims to be genuinely excited by the rise of New Labour. But nobody believes him.

And yet here he was, happily owning up to being a champagne socialist (fizz originally supplied by Lord Beaverbrook) and romantic assignations at the Ivy. As Jill Craigie, his then wife-to-be, put it: "If he wants to meet there, he's the kind of socialist for me." If only he had kept on going that way, he might have been the kind of socialist for

all kinds of people. But history, politics and a car-coat mistaken for a donkey jacket kept getting in the way. Cockerell made it easy to warm to Foot, the man, but he could do nothing to mask the rank stench of the late 1970s.

The early 1970s proved more rewarding for Michael Parkinson, as the BBC rediscovered the habit of tribute seasons to mark the passing of Stewart and Mitchum and kicked them off with a brace of re-edited Parkinson (BBC1, BBC2, Saturday) interviews. The conversation with Stewart was a delight, a reminder of how rewarding Parkinson's own-brand flattery could be when he had a guest who not only had great stories but knew how to tell them. Mitchum's, by contrast, was a painful but not the least amusing reminder of what happens when he didn't. As Norma Desmond almost put it, it wasn't she nor the movies that had gotten small, it was the chat shows.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (81570)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (45057)
 - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (323515)
 - 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (1617824)
 - 9.50 Kilroy (538782)
 - 10.00 Who'd Do the Pudding? (45518)
 - 11.00 News (1) and weather (787070)
 - 11.05 Due South (1) (1754222)
 - 11.50 Good Neighbours (2897353)
 - 12.00 News (1) and weather (8358063)
 - 12.05pm Wipeout (835711)
 - 12.35 Neighbours (1) (8378370)
 - 1.00 News and weather (1) (48044)
 - 1.30 Regional News (1) (4238841)
 - 1.40 Perry Mason: The Case of the Poisonous Painter (1993), with Raymond Burr. The attorney is drawn into a world of deception and fraud when he investigates the case of a wealthy artist murdered after taking his own death and becoming a recluse (1) (3497179)
 - 3.10 Gulliver: The corner lies to establish whether Dr. Arthur's niece Melody is guilty of manslaughter (8222782)
 - 4.00 Popeye (7736334) 4.10 Bananaman (8358888) 4.15 Casper (4120112) 4.35 Run the Risk (8308083) 5.00 Newsround (1) (883228) 5.10 Eddor (1) (4564841)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (218082)
 - 6.00 News (1) and weather (173)
 - 6.30 Regional News (1) (315)
 - 7.00 Nightmares of Nature: Man-eaters. People who have survived their encounters with crocodiles, bears and hippos relate their experiences (1) (1005)
 - 7.30 Mastermind: Specialist subjects are the life and films of Enrol Flynn, English Church music 1505-1625, the life and poems of William Owen and James I of Scotland (1) (509)
 - 8.00 EastEnders: Royce is in the air for budding entrepreneur Barry, and Lenny embarks on a promising new sporting venture (1) (3783)
 - 8.30 Tiger Bay: New drama series set in Cardiff's dockland area, with Robert Gwynn and Martin Troakes (1/8) (1) (980)
 - 9.00 News (1) and weather (5402)
 - 9.30 Birds of a Feather: Tracy and Sharon set off to visit Darryl and Chris in their new jail (1) (78976)
 - 10.00 Preston Front: Driving Test. New series of the official comedy drama series, with Colin Buchanan. Striving Moss makes a guest appearance (1/7) (1) (598792)
 - 10.40 Match of the Eighties: Danny Baker looks back on the over-heated soccer scene of the 1980s, starting with the 1980-81 season (1/8) (1) (89179)
 - 11.20 Classic Albums: New series. The story behind the making of Jimi Hendrix's 1968 album, Electric Ladyland, with contributions from Chris Chandler, Noel Redding, Mitch Mitchell, Buddy Miles, and Stevie Nicks (1/8) (1) (889044)
 - 12.25am Neil Kelly (1970) with Mick Jagger. Drama telling the story of the notorious Australian outlaw. Directed by Tony Richardson (2/3) (1) (37377)
 - 2.05 Weather (4254808)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. To use the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record, VideoPlus+ (+), PlusCode (+), and Video Recorder are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Putting Training to Work (780792) 6.25 Danger Children at Play (785699) 6.50 Time for You (1) (870353)
 - 7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (1) and signing (5732808)
 - 7.30 Teletubbies (1) (7851266) 7.35 Postman Pat (1) (644524) 8.10 Rascals (1) (8883053) 8.35 To Me, to You (1) (238624) 9.05 Spiderman (1) (5478808) 9.35 Smart (1) (237044)
 - 10.00 The Moonlins (1) (874651) 10.25 The Brollys (1) (757165) 10.45 Teletubbies (1) (779035) 11.15 Harry and the Hendersons (1) (813150) 11.40 Moon Over Miami (1) (901588) 12.30pm Working Lunch (87082)
 - 1.00 A to Z of Food: Park (2587711) 1.10 Beechgrove Garden: The First Season (8903709) 1.40 Blockbusters (5937404) 2.05 The Natural World (1) (5687569) 3.00 News (1) regional news and weather (1810402) 3.05 Traffic Jam (1) (773265) 3.55 News (1) regional news and weather (2259792)
 - 4.00 The River (1951), starring Robert Mitchum, Elizabeth Taylor and Robert Ryan. Gangster drama about a dedicated police officer's near-obsessive attempts to crush the criminal empire of a powerful mobster. Directed by John Cromwell (8166783)
 - 5.25 Going Going Gone (1) (8980841)
 - 6.00 Doc Savage, the Man of Bronze (1975). Superhero action with Ron Ely. Enigmatic superhero Doc Savage sets out to solve the mystery of his father's death. Directed by Michael Anderson (1) (3538857)
 - 7.40 Mr. Tate's Gallery: The history and the future of the London gallery (1) (187286)

FI Glover in Ireland (8.30pm)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (587204)
 - 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (1601063)
 - 9.55 Judge Judy (4314792)
 - 10.20 News (1) (8116889)
 - 10.25 Regional News (1) (6108803)
 - 10.30 Turn Back the Clock (1989) Fantasy drama with Connie Sellecca, David Dukes and Jere Burns. Directed by Larry Elikann (8491112)
 - 12.25 Regional News (1) (8719995)
 - 12.30 News (1) and weather (8719995)
 - 12.55 The Pulse (874688) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (3749313) 1.50 Side Effects (1) (436755) 2.40 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (1) (7027688)
 - 3.20 News (1) (1827782)
 - 3.25 Regional News (1) (1628063)
 - 3.30 Total TV (1) (4135337) 3.40 Caribou Kitchen (1) (178261) 3.45 Tiny Toon Adventures (1) (6002131) 4.15 Woolf (818180) 4.45 On Your Marks: A profile of Damon Hill (182112)
 - 5.10 Highway to Heaven (1/2) (1537995)
 - 5.40 News (1) and weather (45186)
 - 5.50 HTV Crime Stories (558353)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (202957)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (11286)
 - 6.30 The West Tonight (711)
 - 7.00 Wheel of Fortune (1) (8773)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street: Les Battersby conceals an amorous plan (1) (895)
 - 8.00 World in Action: An undercover team investigates the Tesco's main meat suppliers (1) (5421)

Gerard Depardieu stars (8.30pm)

- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30am Our House (30286)
 - 11.00 Side Effects (545173)
 - 11.50 Chatsworth (3315150)
 - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8794886)
 - 1.50 Blue Heelers (572841)
 - 2.50-3.20 High Road (5128383)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5127995)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (583982)
 - 10.40 Film: Manhunt: Search for the Night Stalker (1255588)
 - 12.45am War of the Worlds (2561358)
 - 1.40 Love and Lend (5154613)
 - 2.40 Real Highway Patrol (8262029)
 - 3.05 Film: Pit of Darkness (5154735)
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30am Our House (30286)
 - 11.00 Side Effects (545173)
 - 11.50 Chatsworth (3315150)
 - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8794886)
 - 1.50 Blue Heelers (572841)
 - 2.50-3.20 High Road (5128383)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5127995)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (583982)
 - 10.40 Film: Manhunt: Search for the Night Stalker (1255588)
 - 12.45am War of the Worlds (2561358)
 - 1.40 Love and Lend (5154613)
 - 2.40 Real Highway Patrol (8262029)
 - 3.05 Film: Pit of Darkness (5154735)

As HTV West except:

- 10.30am Our House (30286)
- 11.00 Side Effects (545173)
- 11.50 Chatsworth (3315150)
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8794886)
- 1.50 Blue Heelers (572841)
- 2.50-3.20 High Road (5128383)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5127995)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (583982)
- 10.40 Film: Manhunt: Search for the Night Stalker (1255588)
- 12.45am War of the Worlds (2561358)
- 1.40 Love and Lend (5154613)
- 2.40 Real Highway Patrol (8262029)
- 3.05 Film: Pit of Darkness (5154735)

- CENTRAL**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (14803)
 - 7.00 The Bigger Breakfast Incorporates 9.05 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (1) 9.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack (1) 10.05 Hargis' With Mr Cooper (1) 10.28 The Crystal Maze (1) 11.35 The Bigger Breakfast (8931888)
 - 12.05pm California Dreams (1) (2838570)
 - 12.30 My So Called Life (1) (4708065)
 - 1.25 Australia Wild (1) (59703501)
 - 1.55 Something for the Boys (1944) A musical starring Carmen Miranda, Phil Silvers and Vivien Blaine. Directed by Lewis Allen (49416537)
 - 3.30 Herc's Case: I Made a Murder (1) (889)
 - 4.00 Bewitched (1) (1) (524) 4.30 Countdown (1) (831599) 4.55 Montel Williams: Sammy Davis Jr (1) (274082) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (1) (860)
 - 6.00 Tour De France: Courcheval to Morzine: 208km (773)
 - 6.30 Hollyoaks: Teen soap (1) (353)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (323763)
 - 7.50 Deadline 2000: Jeremy Kent, of Surfers Against Sewage (200173)
 - 8.00 Dosh (8/8) Adam Faith on making the most of money. Tonight, the new self-assessment tax system is explained, advice on how to negotiate a bigger pay rise and how to spot a valuable modern collectable (1) (3063)
 - 8.30 Absolutely Animals: Mark Evans examines the recent court ruling which classifies wolf/dog hybrids as dangerous animals in Britain. Wendy Turner reports on Proteus Airlines, a living fossil, found in limestone caves in Slovenia which is on the verge of extinction (1) (2570)
 - 9.00 Secret History: Spying for Love. The story of the East German secret service's "Romeo" agents. Women who worked for the West German government, including Gabriele Gast were promised love and marriage in return for secret information. Last in series (1) (8062)
 - 10.00 NYPD Blue: New York police drama series (1) (13834)

Orangemen on the march (10.55pm)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (14803)
 - 7.00 The Bigger Breakfast Incorporates 9.05 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (1) 9.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack (1) 10.05 Hargis' With Mr Cooper (1) 10.28 The Crystal Maze (1) 11.35 The Bigger Breakfast (8931888)
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 - 10.00 NYPD Blue: New York police drama series (1) (13834)

Orangemen on the march (10.55pm)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocaster decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Extra (9255044)
 - 7.30 HavaKosko (7091131) 8.00 The End Byron Adventure Series (7952228)
 - 8.30 WorldWide: Despite being poor in economic terms Kerala in southern India has managed to achieve a low birth rate, good life expectancy and a high level of literacy (7957599)
 - 9.00 Espresso: Consumer issues (3698888)
 - 10.00 Exclusive! (1) (5677599) 10.30 Attractions (1) (7800063)
 - 11.00 Lazea (8559179) 11.50 Double Espresso (1300537) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (7991315) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (456573)
 - 1.00 5 News Update (1) (56712529) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (8508806) 2.00 5's Company (858585)
 - 3.30 The Suburban Gang (1992) with Jason Johnson, Michael D. Weathered and Brandon Blaser. Drama about a battle of good and evil, between two children's groups. Directed by Bruce Neibor (1007860)
 - 5.30 5's Company: Late Extra (68821773)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (7335266)
 - 6.00 Move on Up (1) (7335266)

Tina Landini as Susie (6.30pm)

6.30 Family Affairs Susie tells Duncan he is not her only lover (1) (7326518)

7.00 Exclusive! Julia Bradbury with the latest entertainment news (6885567)

7.30 Close Encounters: Miracle at Tendaho Documentary that looks at the Alar tribe who survive in the inhospitable Danakil Desert in Ethiopia (1) (7315402)

8.00 Hot Property A middle-aged single mother looks to settle down in Cambridge with help from Sandy Mitchell (1) (689408)

8.30 5 News (1) (8573112)

9.00 Thief (1981) with James Caan, Tuesday Weld and Will Nelson. A thief's attempts to go straight are hampered by the mob. Directed by Michael Mann (8595939)

11.00 Not the Jack Docherty Show with Rich Hall (2979711)

11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1) (9120063)

12.45am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine hosted by Domini Diamond includes action from the Summer X Games (81216087)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco (1337735)

5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (3679754)

UK LIVING

7.00pm The Living (36714131) 8.05 Gossip and Gossip (4227992) 9.15 Gossip (4227992) 9.30 Gossip (4227992) 9.45 Gossip (4227992) 10.00 Gossip (4227992) 10.15 Gossip (4227992) 10.30 Gossip (4227992) 10.45 Gossip (4227992) 11.00 Gossip (4227992) 11.15 Gossip (4227992) 11.30 Gossip (4227992) 11.45 Gossip (4227992) 12.00 Gossip (4227992) 12.15 Gossip (4227992) 12.30 Gossip (4227992) 12.45 Gossip (4227992) 1.00 Gossip (4227992) 1.15 Gossip (4227992) 1.30 Gossip (4227992) 1.45 Gossip (4227992) 2.00 Gossip (4227992) 2.15 Gossip (4227992) 2.30 Gossip (4227992) 2.45 Gossip (4227992) 3.00 Gossip (4227992) 3.15 Gossip (4227992) 3.30 Gossip (4227992) 3.45 Gossip (4227992) 4.00 Gossip (4227992) 4.15 Gossip (4227992) 4.30 Gossip (4227992) 4.45 Gossip (4227992) 5.00 Gossip (4227992) 5.15 Gossip (4227992) 5.30 Gossip (4227992) 5.45 Gossip (4227992) 6.00 Gossip (4227992) 6.15 Gossip (4227992) 6.30 Gossip (4227992) 6.45 Gossip (4227992) 7.00 Gossip (4227992) 7.15 Gossip (4227992) 7.30 Gossip (4227992) 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POUNDING 43
Strong sterling likely to hit Reuters

BUSINESS

PROBLEM 44
Roger Bootle says EMU is not the answer



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JULY 21 1997

Bank faces recession warning over further rate rises



George: defending policy

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FURTHER rises in interest rates could push the British economy into recession, the leading independent forecaster will argue this week. The National Institute for Economic and Social Research will say that monetary policy has been tightened enough to bring growth of the economy down to its sustainable rate of 2.5 per cent next year. The Treasury Select Committee is likely to use the institute figures to challenge Eddie George, Governor

of the Bank of England, this week. He is due to appear on Wednesday, the day before the forecasts are formally published, but the institute projections will provide powerful ammunition for critics of the Bank's new monetary committee. The institute expects base rates to rise a further notch from 6.75 to 7 per cent but says this is unnecessary. The ensuing strength of sterling will, it projects, bring growth down to a below-trend 2 per cent next year. Although that is the central forecast, the institute argues that there is a 25 per cent chance of

the economy dipping into recession. Sterling finished last week hovering around DM3.00 and there are growing fears that the pound could yet surge higher as the Bank of England makes further rate rises. The Bank has said repeatedly that it views the high level of the pound as a "policy dilemma". But Mr George is expected to reaffirm that rate rises have to take precedence over the exchange rate, if the Bank is to succeed in controlling inflation. The City believes that further strong retail sales and GDP data this week will signal another quarter-point rise to 7 per cent. But a growing number of economists say recent interest rate rises, coupled with the continuing strength of sterling, will prove sufficient to slow the economy over the coming year and that further rate rises run the danger of overkill.

This view is backed up by the latest Chartered Institute of Marketing survey which shows business confidence slipping over the past three months. Marketers blame the interest rate rises and the overvalued pound for their more cautious outlook. The service

industries remain most bullish but manufacturing sectors are reporting below-average plans for growth. Inflationary prospects have also worsened slightly over the last quarter with the survey pointing to average price rises of 1.5 per cent this year, compared with 1.3 per cent in the previous quarter. Steve Cuthbert, director-general of the CIM, said: "On the whole the outlook is positive with businesses planning for steady growth but marketers are exercising caution." A separate survey, also published today, shows that support for a

single-currency is growing among exporters who are bearing the brunt of the surge in sterling. The DHL quarterly export indicator shows support for economic and monetary union at 62 per cent in June compared with 58 per cent in May. Glyn Jones, commercial director of DHL International, said: "Many exporters have become increasingly alarmed about the strong pound. The desire to see some stability in currency markets is undoubtedly contributing to more exporters looking at monetary union in a favourable light."

Pressure on NatWest after Pru link fails

By ADAM JONES

DOUBTS over the independent future of the NatWest Group will intensify today after weekend revelations that merger talks with Prudential Corporation, the insurer, have collapsed.

The Prudential talks follow abortive merger negotiations with Abbey National. These also took place when NatWest was seen in the City to be in a weak position after setbacks in its drive to expand in investment banking. Speculators are likely to be convinced that Lord Alexander of Weedon, NatWest's chairman, has abandoned an independent strategy.

In spite of a suggestion that the Prudential aims to resurrect its merger plan through pressure on NatWest institutional shareholders, a return to the bargaining table looked unlikely yesterday. NatWest shareholders are already reeling from the £77 million derivatives mispricing debacle at NatWest Markets, its investment banking arm. The losses led to the departure of Martin Owen, NatWest Markets' chief executive, and six managers. NatWest must either convince investors that it has a strategy that can ensure the

continuation of the bank's independent status or become prey to potential aggressors. Shareholders have already seen the bank make an unsuccessful merger approach to Abbey National, the former building society, and markets reports later named Barclays as a possible suitor.

News of the Prudential talks and their subsequent failure emerged at the weekend, after a day of fevered gossip in the City last Friday. At the instigation of the Prudential, the two financial services giants were considering a deal to create a combined company worth an estimated £26 billion.

The attractions of the merger would have been the combination of Prudential's products with NatWest's distribution network, turning it into a powerful bancassurance like Lloyd's TSB. However, NatWest called off the talks last Tuesday. Neither the Prudential or NatWest would comment on the collapse. Two explanations of why the talks ended are circulating. One is that NatWest board members rejected the proposed outline management structure.

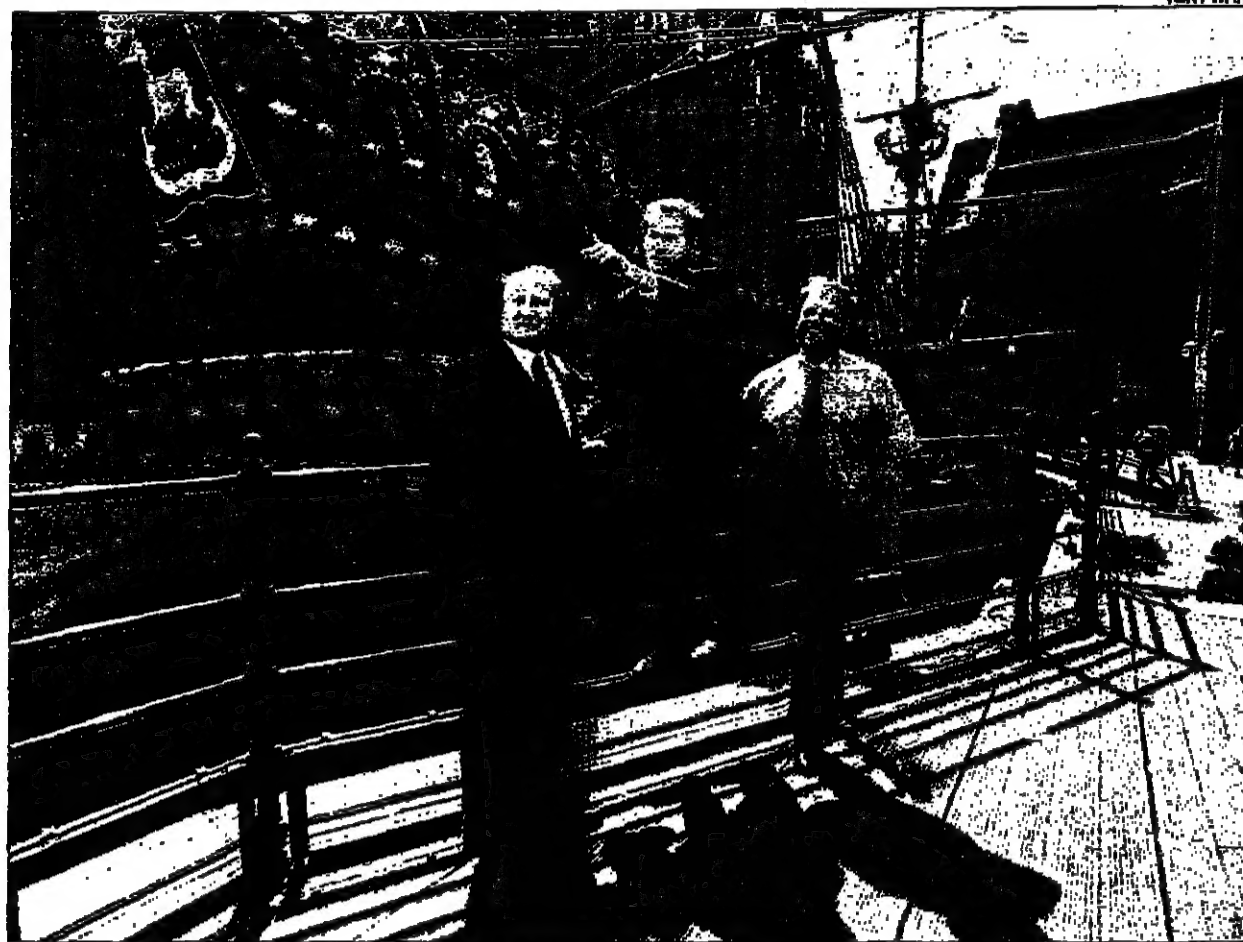
This would probably have involved Lord Alexander tak-

ing over the chairmanship of the combined group, while Sir Peter Davis, the Prudential chief executive, became chief executive. Rejection on these grounds could mean a rift between Lord Alexander and other board members, particularly Derek Wanless, his chief executive, who would be eclipsed by Sir Peter in the new structure.

Another explanation is that NatWest's board was put off by the Prudential's US operations, which include Jackson National Life, an insurer. The net result was that there was no chance of the preliminary talks being reconvened.

NatWest is set to announce interim results on August 7. A profits warning last month said pre-tax profits would be below £770 million.

A formal announcement about changes to NatWest Markets may be made at the same time. It is tipped to include the removal of the treasury and corporate lending facilities from the investment bank arm, which could stay as a free-standing entity outside the main body of the bank. This slimming gesture would be seen in many quarters as a move to improve the saleability of NatWest Markets, which in turn would remove one of the biggest stumbling blocks to a takeover or merger.



Way forward: George Jones, left, Michael Hardern and Andrew Martin hoping for a successful pro-conversion vote

Nationwide may 'jump vote gun'

By ADAM JONES

NATIONWIDE may announce the results of its crucial ballot election early to forestall a stampede of members wanting to attend its annual meeting on Thursday. The vote could effectively decide whether the building society will shed its mutual status. Members may be told before Thursday if the five pro-conversion candidates seeking election to the board have been successful. A Nationwide spokesman said yesterday

that the announcement may be brought forward amid fears that it may be impossible for all the members to fit into the 1,400-seater venue. The spokesman said that the society is to explore whether the early decision would be legally acceptable. However, it is by no means certain that the Electoral Reform Society, which is organising the ballot, will have finished the count in time for an early declaration. At least a

million votes have already been cast. The Electoral Reform Society was working over the weekend to deal with the massive response.

Michael Hardern, leader of the Members for Conversion group of building society members and carpetbaggers, is hoping for election to the Nationwide board, alongside George Jones, Andrew Martin and two other supporters. Mr Hardern's erratic behaviour, including two recent

U-turns over his pro-conversion views, has led to calls that he is not a suitable person to take up such a directorship.

The Building Societies Commission, which regulates building societies, has been lobbied strongly on this point but has not intervened in the run-up to the vote. The Nationwide vote is being seen as a referendum on the future of all surviving building societies, in spite of not being a direct vote to convert.

Stores sale leads to Littlewoods friction

By JON ASHWORTH

SHAREHOLDERS in Littlewoods are rallying round James Ross, their chairman, amid attempts to derail the retail group's restructuring plans.

Details of a rival £540 million bid for Littlewoods Stores were circulating this weekend, creating the impression of a fresh rift in the ranks of the controlling Moores family. Littlewoods' announcement that it was to sell 19 stores to Marks & Spencer for £192 million is thought to have angered rival suitors.

It has emerged that a counter offer involving about £500 million cash was put together by CVC Capital Partners, a venture capital firm, with financing from either Nomura or Credit Suisse First Boston.

Details have been circulated as a note to fellow Littlewoods shareholders, with the implication that the 32 family members who own the shares have fallen out over the Marks & Spencer proposal. Littlewoods played down talk of a rift yesterday, and said the financial results for the 16 months to March 31, due out tomorrow, would point to the recovery of the business. The shareholders are expected to issue a statement supporting Mr Ross. An old dispute involving the sourcing of Littlewoods goods in the Far East has flared up again. Douglas Leese, who was once used as a middleman in negotiations, is suing various Moores for \$60 million (£37 million), in an action filed in Miami.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22

No 1151

- ACROSS**
- Marriage announcements (5)
 - Argument: crossbow arrow (7)
 - Harmonious: letter as B, C (9)
 - Boring task: cigarette (5)
 - Troop: after deductions (3)
 - Audience right (5,4)
 - Highland musician (5)
 - Contented (5)
 - Educ: travel through Europe (hist.) (5,4)
 - Donkey (loosely) (3)
 - Commotion (3)
 - Conspiring: pleasant (9)
 - Old jail warden (7)
 - Senior member (5)
- DOWN**
- French —, wrote Shakespeare (5)
 - Without pause (3,4)
 - Charity hike (9,4)
 - Mystery "star" (6)
 - In the exposed, dangerous area (2,3,5,3)
 - Weapon: ransack (5)
 - Without pressure, weight (7)
 - Procession of tableaux (7)
 - Rich: dissolute young man (7)
 - That's good news: a Henry (6)
 - Secret affair (5)
 - Wound yarn: flight of geese (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1150

ACROSS: 1. Haulier 5. Chit 9. Brunt 10. Sundial 11. Supreme Court 12. Folly 13. Fidelity 16. Visions 17. Gate 19. Eternal 20. Hapi 21. Noah 22. Cryptic

DOWN: 1. Hobi 2. Uruguay 3. Intermittent 4. Resume 6. Haiku 7. Tolstoy 8. Knocking copy 12. Pattern 14. Detraer 15. Frolic 17. Arena 18. Zinc

Bell-Nynex merger cleared

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BELL ATLANTIC and Nynex, which together control the telephone business on America's Eastern seaboard, are on course for a \$23.7 billion (£14.2 billion) merger after the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reached an agreement with both companies that they would promptly open their vast new freedom to competition.

The agreement should help MCI, whose struggles to compete with local incumbents are threatening its merger with British Telecom. Robert Brace, BT's finance director, flew out yesterday for another round of talks to review MCI's deteriorating finances.

Sheffield United rebels call for flotation inquiry

By JASON NISSE

DISSIDENT shareholders in Sheffield United are calling for a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the flotation of the First Division football club on the stock market earlier this year. A ginger group, led by Barrie Cottingham, chief executive of SIG, the insulation company, claims that documents sent to United's shareholders at the time of the float were inaccurate and misled some shareholders as to the value of their shares. This is disputed by United.

United floated via a reverse takeover by Conrad, the textile company, which made a formal offer to United shareholders, backed by Apex Partners, the merchant bank.

The club has two classes of shares — 477 original shares and 2,880 ordinary shares issued in 1982. Because of

the deal went through, and are pressing for a payout, a move that could cost United in excess of £1 million.

Mr Cottingham claims that the offer document contained errors, which he said were due to the lawyers only looking at the current version of the club's articles of association put in place in 1982. However, because of the way they were introduced, the previous articles of association also apply, giving more votes to the original shares.

Charles Green, United's chief executive, said he did not believe the documents were incorrect but was hoping to put an offer to the dissident shareholders to settle the issue. The terms are believed to include a 20-year free season ticket for each share, which is exchangeable for cash in five years' time.

United's colourful history — one former chairman was acquitted of insider dealing, another has been accused of fraud and a former deputy chairman is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office — Conrad's advisers had to take detailed legal advice as to the rights of these shares.

The legal team, led by Russell Carmody of Gouldens, the City solicitors, backed a decision to offer five times as many new shares to ordinary shareholders as were offered to the holders of the original shares, valuing the original shares at £665 each. Some had been changing hands at above £4,000 each before the float.

Holders of more than 200 of the original shares are refusing to accept the United offer more than six months after

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR LIFE ASSURANCE ?

There are many Banks, Building Societies, and Insurance Companies offering to arrange for you their own company's policies.

Review your life assurance and save money!

At Direct Life & Pension Services we are Independent Financial Advisers. We don't supply just one company's policies but are able to provide a range of policies from many different companies. This in turn means that the illustrations we obtain are amongst the most competitive available, every time we quote.

Consider the illustrations below for monthly premiums, on a 20 year, £100,000 level term assurance.

Male & Female (both aged 15 years birthday and non-smokers)	Male & Female (both aged 45 years birthday and non-smokers)
Nat West Life 31.20	Commercial Union 75.00
Woolwich Life 31.98	Woolwich Life 77.05
Abbey National Life 32.78	Abbey National Life 77.58
Barclays Life 35.40	Nat West Life 82.10
Commercial Union 36.00	Nationwide Life 83.50
Nationwide Life 37.81	Barclays Life 86.00
Clerical Medical 45.50	Black Horse Life 101.68
Black Horse Life 46.38	Clerical Medical 111.20
Scottish Life 58.51	Scottish Life 137.40
We can arrange this for 23.70 p.m.	We can arrange this for 53.00 p.m.

PIA does not regulate these non-regulated term assurances. We do however offer advice on regulated and non-regulated life assurances.

So if you are considering taking out a life assurance, decreasing term (mortgage protection), critical illness or income replacement plan (PHI), and would like 'Independent Financial Advice' phone us at local rates on

0345 419410

direct
Life & Pension Services

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